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11 January 2017 Vol 24 • Issue 2 www.champnews.com

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TV focus on man who swapped Skem for Spain

'Affordable' home developments near completion

PEOPLE looking for a new home in West Lancashire will soon be able to benefit from new 'affordable' homes for rent and to buy.

The borough council has been working with One Vision Housing (OVH) to make 55 new properties available for affordable rent and sale in Banks on two developments which are nearly complete.

The Old School Close development, on the former St Stephen's School site on Hoole Lane, will provide 29 new affordable homes. These will be made up of one-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom houses for rent, and two and three-bedroom houses for sale through shared ownership with OVH.

Meanwhile One Vision Housing's Greaves Hall development, located just off Greaves Hall Avenue, will provide 26 new homes. These will be made up of two-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom houses for rent and also two and three-bedroom houses for sale through shared ownership with OVH.

While there has been some affordable housing development in Banks in recent years, most of the new housing has consisted of houses and bungalows. These two new developments will provide apartments to rent suitable for single people or couples.

Councillor Jennifer Patterson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for housing and inclusion, said: "The council is committed to ensuring local people can access affordable housing for rent and sale and we are pleased to be working with One Vision Housing on this important issue. Together we are making real progress."

The new homes will be owned and managed by One Vision Housing. Louise Davies, the company's development director, said: "We are pleased to be working with West Lancs Council to develop these new rent and sale homes and are excited that these properties are nearing completion on schedule."

All the homes will be ready for occupation during January and February 2017.

NEW VETERANS ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED IN TOWN

Report by **Henry James**

A NEW group for serving and former members of all three armed forces is being formed in Skelmersdale.

Alan Lewis, a former member of the Royal Green Jackets, is the driving force behind the Skelmersdale Veterans Association which aims to hold a number of high profile-events in the town.

These include a concert on the weekend of the anniversary of the Battle of The Somme on June 30 when it is hoped that youngsters from local primary schools will join in to make it a day for all ages.

Also planned is a dinner at Evermoor Hub for veterans and their families and friends on July 1.

Meanwhile the association will be organising the annual Armed Forces Day on July 23-24, along with a Remembrance Parade as well.

The veterans plan to engage with young people from local schools and colleges doing events around remembrance and will visit The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Alan Lewis said: "We want the young people to learn about remembrance and find out more about those who gave their lives in both world wars and more recent conflicts like Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Gulf wars and Afghanistan."

Members of the Skelmersdale Veterans Association, Alan Lewis, Harry McKenzie, Tom Creevy and Gary Simpson

The group also want to hear from local primary schools across Skelmersdale who would like to join them and sing some first and second world war songs at a concert to raise money to pay for the Armed Forces Day and other visits across the county.

Alan added: "We would also like to hear from local firms who would like to sponsor our colours and Union flags, which are a comprehensive part of the association. We also want a local padre to become part of the association and bless our new colours."

Skelmersdale Veterans Association will meet on the second Sunday of every month at the Hare and Hounds pub in Ormskirk Road, Holland Moor from 2pm. Any current or former service members wishing to join are welcome to go along.

For more information contact Alan Lewis MBE, ex Royal Green Jackets by email at alan.say@hotmail.co.uk or by ringing 07939 660048.

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Sunday is deadline for primary school place applications

TIME is running out for parents of children due to start primary school this autumn to apply for places at schools of their choice.

Online applications on Lancashire County Council's website will close at midnight on Sunday, January, 15.

Parents of all children starting school are reminded that they need to submit an application form for all children, even if their child has an older brother or sister at the school concerned.

For more information, visit the website at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or call 01772 532191 or 01772 532190.

Call to check your details are correct on electoral register

WEST Lancs Council is urging residents in the borough to check their details are correct on the 2017 Register of Electors to ensure they don't miss out on voting in forthcoming elections.

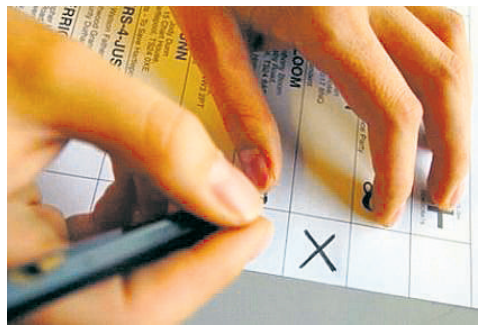
The revised version of the register is available for inspection, under supervision, during normal office hours at the council offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk (Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 4.45pm).

A copy is also available for inspection, under supervision, at Ormskirk Library and you can also check your details by calling 01695 585014.

Lancashire County Council elections are taking place on Thursday, May 4 2017 and people who are not on the Register of Electors will not be able to vote in these.

Not being on the Register of Electors may also affect your credit score.

Kim Webber, West Lancs' electoral registration officer, said: "You need to be on the electoral roll to have your say in the upcoming Lancashire County Council elections and incorrect details may result in residents not being able to vote – so it really is worth taking the time to check."



Check the Register of Electors to ensure you can vote in May's county council elections

For more information about the Register of Electors, requesting a postal or proxy vote application, or changing your details on the register if they are incorrect, contact Electoral Services on 01695 585014 or email elections.office@westlancs.gov.uk

To find out more about registering to vote visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/registertovote.

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Council tenant evicted for anti-social behaviour and failing to pay rent

Authority granted possession of property after court hearing

A 20-YEAR-OLD man has been evicted from his home in Skelmersdale after a series of complaints about his anti-social behaviour and that of his associates and for failing to pay his rent throughout a six-month introductory tenancy.

West Lancs Council received a complaint that the man and his friends were 'destroying what used to be a nice, peaceful, trouble-free estate'.

At a hearing at Wigan County Court the council was granted possession of the property in Hallcroft, Birch Green it had been renting to Mr Jordan Smith. He was also ordered to pay back rent arrears of £1,956.19 and costs up to a total of £2,000.

The court heard that Mr Smith moved into the property in June 2016 but just 10 days later other residents of Hallcroft complained to the council about anti-social behaviour from a large group hanging around inside and outside the property.

Smashed

It was reported that some members of the group were sitting on the roof and others were shouting and screaming.

Further incidents were reported to the council in July and August and rent arrears began to mount up.

Then in late August and early September 2016 the council received complaints that Mr Smith had been banging on the windows of his own property, shouting and swearing and demanding to be let in. Council staff also received complaints that bottles were being smashed against the property.

Councillor Kevin Wright: "This should serve as a warning."

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for community safety, said: "The council received a series of allegations of anti-social behaviour about this tenant and people visiting his home. This case should serve as a warning to tenants that we do not tolerate such behaviour and we will take action wherever possible that may result in them being evicted."

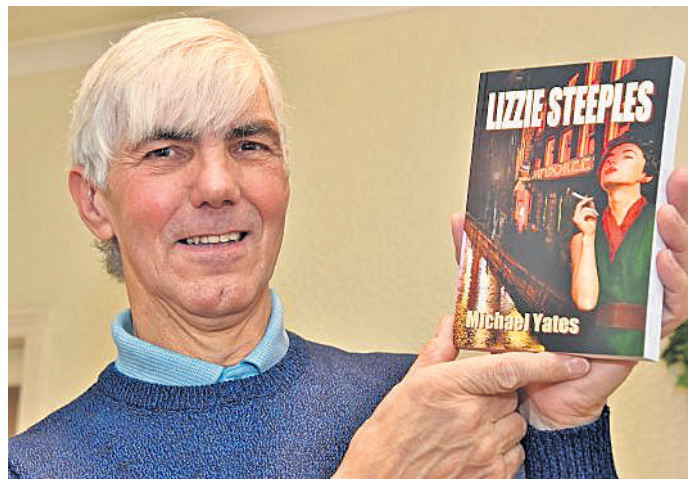
Councillor Jenny Patterson, portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, added: "Tenants are responsible for their behaviour and that of people visiting their property. Mr Smith's behaviour and that of groups of people visiting the property, along with the large rent arrears that had mounted up, left the council with no choice but to take action to evict him.

Advice

"The council tries to work with its tenants who find themselves in rent arrears. If there are any tenants who find themselves in this situation they should contact their housing officer immediately so the council can help them. They may be able to make an agreement with us to pay off what they owe gradually.

"The council offers a free, independent and confidential rent and money advice service to council tenants. Advisers can help with managing bills, claiming benefits and negotiating debt payment programmes.

"For more details visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/moneyadvice. To use the service email money.advice@westlancs.gov.uk or call the team on 01695 585252."



MICHAEL Yates with his debut novel *Lizzie Steeples*

Michael's on write lines after having debut novel published at 67!

Report by **Henry James**

AN author from West Lancashire is hoping to be on the write lines to more success after having his first book published - at the age of 67!

Michael Yates describes his debut novel, *Lizzie Steeples* as a "thriller with many unexpected twists and turns, right up to the final chapter."

The pensioner from Up Holland used his experience of working in the cotton industry to help provide the background for the book - published by I2i publishing - having been an apprentice fitter at the Eckersley Cotton factory in Wigan, formerly one of the biggest in Lancashire.

The story is set in the Lancashire cotton industry in the mid-20th century. It centres on title character Lizzie, who is struggling to bring up three children.

One of them, her son Jake, is on trial for murder, but while he is on remand the murderer strikes again.

Michael said: "The book took a couple of years to write but I was able to write a large part of it while recuperating after a hernia operation.

"Some kind people have said it is riveting read and said they can't put it down - I've even heard there is a waiting list to read it at Preston library!

"There is also a copy at Skelmersdale library and Up Holland library had one too before it was closed.

"It's been a long-held ambition of mine to have a book published and it was something I always wanted to do.

"I was over the moon to finally have my name in print on the front of the book - so many people can't get their work published."

Michael has written another book, called *Murder Through The Turnstiles*, which is available as an e-book and he is in the process of writing a third book with the working title of *A Plot to Kill*.

Pupils and staff from St Francis of Assisi Primary School celebrate the £200 donation

Boost for primary school's breakfast club

ST FRANCIS of Assisi Primary School has received a £200 donation to enhance their breakfast club with new equipment, following a national competition win.

The school in Blakehall, Skelmersdale is a member of the Kellogg's Breakfast Club network and was one of 200 schools from across the UK who was selected to receive the breakfast boost.

The school entered a competition which was featured in the cereal company's Breakfast Club e-newsletter, which provides practical resources to ensure the sustainability of the club.

Mr Naylor from the school said: "We are so grateful to receive this generous donation. We have since been able to purchase valuable resources for our club.

"These resources will help us to provide our breakfast club services for our children and their families thanks to the support from Kellogg's."

Kate Prince, corporate social responsibility manager, at Kellogg's, said: "We believe all children should have the opportunity to start the day with breakfast, but equipment and resources are just as important to clubs as the food itself.

"We're proud to be able to support so many schools across the UK."

Kellogg's has supported breakfast clubs since 1998 and currently has 3,000 schools signed up to its network, offering them a range of resources and provisions to help them operate sustainable and effective breakfast clubs.

Environment Agency probe into River Tawd incident

THE Environment Agency is investigating how the River Tawd was turned white in the week before Christmas.

Champion reader Deborah Hallwell, from Birch Green, spotted the unusual colour of the river behind the library on Thursday, December 22.

The Environment Agency is now looking into the incident.

A spokesman for the agency said: "The Environment Agency has responded to reports of pollution in the River Tawd, Skelmersdale, over the Christmas and New Year period.

"We have been out to view the site of the pollution and investigate and search for the source of the pollutant.

"The pollution was an off-white discolouration and made a significant visual impression.

"However, there is no indication as to any wider impacts to the River Tawd's environment.

"We continue to investigate the incident.

"Members of the public can report environmental incidents to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60."

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New ventilators for hospital

INTENSIVE care patients at Southport Hospital are set to benefit from a £200,000 investment in 10 new ventilators.

The devices, worth £20,000 each, replace 10-year-old machines which will now be sent for auction, probably for use abroad.

Ventilators help patients to breathe when - usually because of a medical problem - they find it difficult to breathe well on their own.

While on the ventilator, the body is able to rest so it has the potential to heal. A ventilator can help with breathing or totally breathe for the patient.

As well as featuring the latest technology, the new ventilators are also portable so they can be kept with the patient if they need to be moved.

Julie Webb, senior sister on the hospital's intensive care unit, said: "This is a wonderful investment by the trust in our hospital and we're very excited to start using them to help patients."

Right: Pictured with one of the new ventilators are senior sister, Julie Webb, health care assistant, Claire Ollerton, and critical care nurse, Karen Rigby

Suspended jail sentence for man who threatened girlfriend's ex

By our **Court Reporter**

A MAN who threatened a former partner of his girlfriend after she lied about getting back together with him has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Michael Vallis, 27, of Brookhouse Road, Ormskirk was said to have subjected the ex-partner - the manager of an e-cigarette store in Eastbank Street, Southport - to more than 20 minutes of aggression and threats at the shop on August 26 of last year.

Lynn Clark, prosecuting at Sefton Magistrates Court where Vallis pleaded guilty to using threatening or abusive words or behaviour with intent to cause fear of unlawful violence, said that he entered the store at midday in a highly agitated state, blaming the manager for breaking up his relationship with his girlfriend by texting her.

"The manager said that they were simply just friends but the defendant was jumping on his toes, walking backwards and forwards and put his finger up to his face and touched him so that he had to push him way," Miss Clark said.

She said Vallis told his partner's ex that he was "lucky" he was not jumping over the counter to pound his face. "I would smack your face so hard you would not get up," he said.

"He was aggressive and foaming at the mouth," Miss Clark continued. "The complainant did not know if he had been taking drugs but said 'I would not be surprised if he was under the influence of drugs.'

"The threats went on for about 20 minutes and he left but then he returned again shouting the same things - 'I know where you live and I know where you drink. Watch out I am going to batter you.'"

The court heard that Vallis had also slammed the shop manager's laptop shut causing damage to it.

Vallis was arrested and during a subsequent interview with police he said that his girlfriend had told him she was getting back with her ex and that she had been messaging him. "It transpires that she had said that to get rid of him and that it was not true. He accepts that the manager was an innocent party," Miss Clark said.

Representing himself before magistrates Vallis said he was "deeply sorry".

"My ex-partner said she was planning to get back with him. I went to the shop in anger more than anything," he said.

The magistrates imposed a suspended prison sentence and ordered that he pay £100 in compensation to the shop manager, £25 in compensation for the damage to the laptop, and £200 in costs and victim surcharge.

Chair of the bench, Ann O'Brien, said: "We consider this to be very, very serious. It's so serious that we will today sentence you to eight-weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months."

She added that if Vallis committed any further offences of a similar nature then all or part of the sentence would be activated and he would go to prison.

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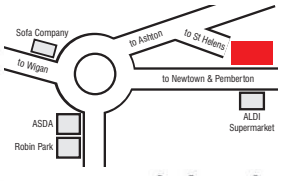

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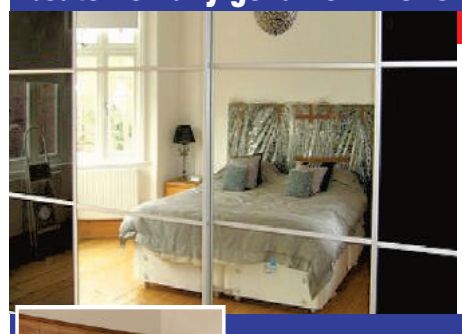

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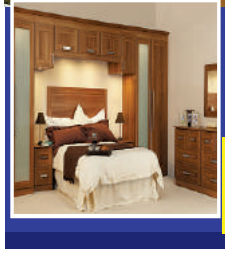

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Councils rake in combined £1m from parking charges and fines

Report by **Henry James**

FIGURES issued by the RAC Foundation show that between them West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council made more than £1m from parking charges and fines in the period 2015-16.

The figure for the borough council was £419,000, up from £367,000 in 2014-15, while the county council's total of £661,000 was down by £50,000 on the previous year.

West Lancs was ranked 223rd out of 353 local authorities in England in terms of income from parking charges and fines, while the county council was ranked 189th.

In total, the RAC Foundation said local authorities in 2015-16 had made a surplus of £756m, 9% more than in 2014-15.

The figures are calculated by taking income from parking charges and penalty notices and then deducting running costs.

The overall rise in profits is attributed to a combination of increasing income (4% up on the previous financial year) and decreasing costs (2% down on the previous financial year).

The data, analysed for the RAC Foundation by transport consultant David Leibling, comes from the statutory annual returns that councils make to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, said: "These numbers might seem eye-wateringly large, but in part they reflect the growing competition for space in many of our towns and cities.

"In 1995 there were only 21.4m cars on Britain's roads, today there are 30.7m.

"Parking charges are one of the tools councils use to keep traffic moving whilst also allowing people reasonable and affordable access to high street shops and other facilities.

"The good news is that any profit generated by councils from on-street parking must by law be spent on transport-related activities, and as every motorist knows there's no shortage of work that needs doing."

A spokesman for West Lancs Council responded: "Charging people to use its off-street car parks helps the council to maintain them to a high standard and also contributes towards the lighting and monitoring of these off-street car parks by CCTV. These measures help our pay and display car parks achieve the Safer Parking Award, which is assessed by the British Parking Association (in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers). This confirms that the car parks are a safe place to park at all times.

"Money from parking charges also helps to pay for parking enforcement, which enables the council to regulate use of its off-street car parks, for example to ensure there is a constant turnover of spaces for shoppers on the short stay car parks and that spaces are not therefore taken up by long-stay parkers.

Reinvested

"Enforcement also helps to ensure bays earmarked for specific users such as disabled people are available to them, that drivers park safely and properly within marked bays to make the maximum use of available space and not obstruct any access or circulation areas.

"Penalty notices are only issued when drivers breach parking regulations. West Lancs Council is only responsible for parking charges and enforcement within its own off-street car parks.

"Responsibility for on-street parking enforcement and maintenance of the adopted highways comes under the remit of Lancashire County Council."

And a spokesman for Lancashire County Council commented: "The main aim of parking management is not to make a profit but to minimise disruption from illegal parking and keep our roads moving so that people can get to work, and easily visit our town and city centres for shopping and other services.

"Revenue from parking pays for the cost of operating the service, and the law requires that when parking generates a surplus, it is always reinvested in the county's transport infrastructure.

"Our parking service began to generate a surplus in 2014/15 due to a number of factors, including the substantial extra revenue being generated from Preston bus station car park, which was transferred to the county council in April 2014, and efficiencies in the cost of operating the service.

"In Lancashire parking enforcement generally works very well and we have been successful in preventing illegal parking by encouraging drivers to park responsibly."

Man, 24, admits trying to incite under-age girl into sexual activity

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A SKELMERSDALE man has admitted trying to incite an under-age girl into sexual activity.

24-year-old Samuel Brown had been due to face trial on Monday, January 9 but after he pleaded guilty to three of the five charges he faced the other two similar alleged offences were dropped.

Brown, who was walking with a stick, admitted three offences of causing or inciting a girl when she was aged 14 or 15 to engage in sexual activity between March 1 and December 19, 2015.

Andrew Ford, prosecuting, said that the offences involved him sending Facebook messages to the schoolgirl, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, during a course of conduct lasting about eight months.

Liverpool Crown Court heard Brown, of Burncroft, Skelmersdale, has no previous convictions and is a family man whose partner gave birth to a child last week.

He wiped away tears when Judge Clement Goldstone, QC, the Recorder of Liverpool, warned him: "The offences to which you have pleaded guilty carry substantial sentences of imprisonment."

He further remanded him on bail to await sentence next Monday (January 16) and ordered him in the interim to sign on the Sex Offenders Register.

Skem health club members help fund life-changing operations for children in developing world

HUNDREDS of children in the developing world will have life-changing operations - thanks to fundraising efforts at Bannatyne Health Clubs across the UK, including Skelmersdale.

Bannatyne Health Clubs held a host of fun events to help raise £31,794 to date with members and staff getting involved and embracing the charity and its objectives. £150 pays for a child to have a life-changing cleft operation.

Duncan Bannatyne, who is an ambassador of the charity Operation Smile, has recently visited Ghana following previous trips to Mexico and Vietnam to see for himself the life-changing work being carried out.

During his visits Mr Bannatyne has witnessed some of the operations first-hand and got to know many of the parents and children who the charity is helping.

Duncan Bannatyne pictured during a recent mission to Ghana

Dedicated

Operation Smile is an international children's medical charity with a presence in more than 60 countries, whose network of more than 5,400 medical volunteers from over 80 countries is dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children.

Since its founding in 1982, Operation Smile has provided more than 240,000 free surgeries for children and young adults born with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities.

To build long-term self-sufficiency in resource poor environments, Operation Smile trains doctors and local medical professionals in its partner countries so they are empowered to treat their local communities.

Operation Smile also donates medical equipment, supplies and provides year-round medical treatment through its worldwide centres.

Justin Musgrove, chief executive of the Bannatyne Group, said: "Duncan is a proud supporter of Operation Smile and every year the health clubs get involved in Smile Week to raise money and awareness of the charity.

"As always our members and staff came up trumps and took part in all manner of fundraising activities and we are delighted to have been able to make such a substantial contribution to a worthwhile and life-changing project."

Karen Jaques, chief executive of Operation Smile UK, commented: "It was an absolute pleasure to accompany Duncan and family on his third Operation Smile mission.

"Duncan gets so involved with the children and he is clearly committed to helping children who need our help. His kindness and generosity cannot be understated and we remain privileged to have him as an Operation Smile Ambassador."

Fire fighters called to rubbish blaze at flats

THREE fire engines - two from Skelmersdale and one from Wigan - were called to attend a rubbish fire outside a block of flats in Evington, Tanhouse at 12.37am on Sunday, January 8.

It is believed the blaze was started deliberately.

Oxygen therapy was administered to one casualty by firefighters and crews were in attendance for 70 minutes.

Fire fighters used breathing apparatus sets, a hose reel and a positive pressure ventilation unit to bring the fire under control.

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County 'prepared' for pothole season

LANCASHIRE County Council is ready for 'pothole season' this year and the authority has £3.5m to spend on the problem.

That's the message from County Councillor John Fillis, the council's cabinet member for highways and transport.

Figures released by the Local Government Association (LGA) show that the repair bill for fixing potholes across England and Wales could reach £14 billion within two years.

However, Cllr. Fillis declared: "We are well prepared for the pothole season which lasts from January to early March. This is when we usually get the most potholes. During this time we expect the number of potholes to rise from 4,000 a month to 7,000 a month.

"So far the number of pothole reports in West Lancashire is not as high as normal. We have had a couple of cold periods but they have not lasted. The cold weather usually leads to an increase in potholes.

"The county council has provided half a million pounds of extra funds to go into fixing potholes in a pre-emptive decision. On top of that, because of savings we are able to spend £1.3m to tackle potholes before they start. We have brought in extra staff and using a process called permanent patching. The government has given us £1.7m extra to be spent on pothole repairs.

"Our salting vehicles are going out as soon as the temperatures drop. We are doing the best job possible to solve the problem.

"The A59 in Burscough is the worst road in West Lancashire for potholes. If the utility companies stop digging up the road for 12 to 18 months, then we are prepared to resurface the road."

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Members of the Tanhouse Morris Dancers celebrate their award

Power company's grand boost for dance troupe bright sparks...

MEMBERS of a local Morris Dancing troupe have won a £1,000 boost - courtesy of power network operator, Electricity North West - for putting a 'spark' in their community.

The Tanhouse Morris Dancers, based at Tanhouse Community Centre, won the funding as part of the company's latest initiative to reward a project that makes a difference to the community.

The dancers' winning entry explained how the group is run entirely by volunteers and gives people the opportunity to dance, regardless of their background or income.

Angela Eadie, dance trainer at Tanhouse Morris Dancers, said: "We're thrilled to be chosen as the winner of Electricity North West's competition. We work hard together to raise much-needed funds to help support local dancers from our community and the money will go towards making sure this will continue."

Report by **Henry James**

Reward

Michelle Lewis, head of communications and stakeholder engagement for Electricity North West, said: "As the region's power network, we power all the homes, businesses and community groups in Lancashire and throughout the North West.

"While we provide the electricity, community groups really bring the spark and we wanted to recognise and reward those groups for powering their local area within our region.

"Tanhouse Morris Dancers are well-deserved winners after their entry showcased how much of a community spirit they have and how much they rely on their local community to support their members and provide them with the opportunity to dance."

The giveaway was part of the Electricity North West's latest awareness campaign, encouraging customers to call them on 105 in the event of a power cut.

The campaign - 'We power the network that powers your day' - runs until the end of January.

Bank staff's festive donation to Liberty Centre

STAFF at the Co-operative Bank's offices at Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale collected items for the West Lancashire Women's Refuge, which is now known as the Liberty Centre.

Djoni Hodgson from the Co-op, who organised the collection said: "I want to thank all the employees who took part in this collection.

"These items will have helped to make many children's Christmas."

Nic Ward (centre) and Djoni Hodgson (right) from the Co-Op Bank with some of the items donated to Jackie Hill of Ormskirk's Liberty Centre

Men-Aces' chief issues footy challenge to local bobbies

Carl promises his team will 'go easy' on boys in blue!

Skem Men-Aces manager Carl Eaton

THE Skem Men-Aces disability football team are set to take on the law - but they are not planning any criminal activity!

Instead the Men-Aces are aiming to tackle the boys in blue on the football field after manager Carl Eaton challenged Skelmersdale Police to play a game against his team - and they have accepted.

Carl posted his appeal on social media, commenting: "The manager of the most famous football club in the country, the mighty Skem Men-Aces, challenges Skelmersdale Police for a long awaited game of football.

"Now I fully appreciate that our local bobbies are aware of the Men-Aces' awesome reputation and may not want to play against our super humans, so here is the deal. We promise to take things easy with you, play at your level and will do our upmost not to humiliate you in defeat.

Intimidated

"I also completely understand how in awe of our supreme athletes you will be, but please don't be intimidated by this and you may even learn a few things from the beautiful game and our unique sportsmen.

"I hope that Skelmersdale Police will accept our challenge against Skem's very own Men-Aces and I look forward to their prompt reply."

The Men-Aces is a football club for adults with learning disabilities based in Skelmersdale and has more than 40 members.

In 2015 Carl Eaton won the BBC North West Unsung Hero Award and the club was featured on North West Tonight. Last year the club received the Points of Light Award from former Prime Minister David Cameron and also received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which is classified as the MBE for volunteer groups.

The land where the homes could be built

Council submits homes proposal

WEST Lancs Council has submitted an application to build houses at land adjacent to 15 Laburnum Drive, Skelmersdale.

The authority believes the site is big enough to provide residential development which is of a similar size to the surrounding homes.

The size of the site would allow the homes to have adequate gardens and off-road parking facilities.

However, at this stage the council has not disclosed how many homes could be built.

In a report outlining details of the application, the council state: "This site is in one of the most sustainable locations in West Lancashire being close to both Skelmersdale town centre and Sandy Lane shopping centre encompassing a range of shops and services.

"This site is also located close to a number of local schools and is in close proximity to bus stops providing direct access to larger retail centres including Ormskirk, Wigan and Southport."

A row of terraced housing used to occupy the site and was known as Fox Street. It was redeveloped to incorporate modern housing/flats in the 1960s and 70s. The site has been vacant since then.

Council officers are in favour of the residential development and believe it will improve the appearance of the area and "assist with the wider regeneration of this part of Skelmersdale."

It is also hoped that the development of the site has the potential to address some anti-social issues which have occurred on the site.

Officers are recommending that outline planning permission for residential development be granted.

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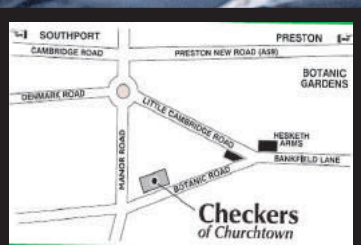

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Mellors' base in East Pimbo

Catering company wins 'best in county' accolade

A FAMILY-RUN contract catering company based in East Pimbo has won a county-wide award.

Mellors Catering Services of Prescott Road scooped the Best Catering Service award Lancashire in the 2016 Facilities Management Awards run by Build Magazine.

Helen Roughley, marketing manager at Mellors, said: "2016 has been a great year for Mellors Catering Services with the number of sites increased by 37% on the previous year and various accolades that we have won.

"However we don't sit back on our laurels here and are very proud to have won this new award working in the facilities management industry - an industry we feel we can add a lot of value too with our experience and passion for what we do."

Mellors currently operate 199 catering contracts across the North of England within the education as well as business and industry sectors.

The 2016 Facilities Management Awards are prestigious awards run by Build Magazine, that are dedicated to recognising those 'hidden heroes' within the facilities management role for their excellence and dedication to their profession.

A spokesman for the awards said: "Our awards address all sectors and areas and thanks to our rigorous research and judging processes, we guarantee that only the most deserving firms and individuals will be successful in winning one."

Anthony's search for a new start featured in TV series

32-year-old swapped Skem for sunny Spain

Report by **Henry James**

A 32-YEAR-OLD Skelmersdale man is currently featuring in a Benidorm-based observational TV series charting the lives of Brits who have swapped the damp and grey of the UK for a new life in the sun.

Anthony Horadada is in the second series of *Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun* which started on Channel 5 last Thursday.

The programme shows how Anthony moved to Spain six years ago, hoping for a new start in life.

The shows claims Brits move to Spain, "because it is hot, handy and a heck of a lot cheaper."

Before moving to Spain, Anthony was addicted to class A drugs and anti-depressants and his life had spiralled out of control.

Exploded

In the opening episode of the programme he said: "I came to Spain six years ago for three days to visit a friend of mine.

"When I got here I could not go back to England. I could not get on the plane, my legs would not let me do it.

"I was taking cocaine, ecstasy, and smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol while taking medication for depression.

"It was like putting petrol on a bonfire. It just exploded in the end and I had to make a decision to walk away from everything."

Now he lives in a quiet fishing village called Pilar, an hour down the coast from Benidorm.

When he first went to Spain he washed dishes and cleaned toilets in bars but now he runs keep-fit and aqua aerobics classes for ex-pats called Ant's Fat Fighters.

Anthony commented: "My classes are for people who have not done any exercise for 20 to 30 years. My average client age is 70."

However, money is still tight for Anthony and he is struggling to keep a roof over his head. He needs £300 a month just to pay his rent and the programme tells how last month his dance class regulars clubbed together to pay it for him.

In the episode Anthony says he doesn't want that situation to arise again and he has come up with what he believes is a 'masterplan' – a Best of British street party, complete with a Spice Girls tribute act!

In forthcoming episodes viewers will find out if he sold enough tickets to pay his rent and if the dance novices he's assembled are able to learn their routines in time for the show.

Anthony Horadade on the show

Bar opens on club site after £600,000 renovation

THE new Jynx bar, on the site of the former Comrades Club in Witham Road, Old Skelmersdale, has finally opened after a £600,000 renovation.

It had originally been hoped to open the venue in May or June last year, but delays in renovation meant the opening had to be put back.

Customers at the opening of the new Jynx Bar

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Chicken & Mushroom **Chicken & Sweetcorn** **Pepperoni or Salami** **Ham & Pineapple** **Ham & Mushroom** **Ham & Chicken** **BBQ Chicken** Chicken & BBQ Sauce	£4.80	£5.80	£7.20	£8.20	£8.40
Hot Tandoori Tandoori Chicken, Onions, Pepperoni & Jalapeños **Hot Pepperoni** Pepperoni, Red Onions, Chilli **Hot & Spicy** Minced Beef, Onion & Green Chillies **Mexican Hot** Chilli Con Carne, Onions or Jalapeños **Donner** Donner Meat, Red Onions, Jalapeños & Sausage **Garlic Chicken** Mushroom, Garlic, Red Onion, Chicken **Meatballs** Green Peppers, Onions and Fresh Tomato **Vegetarian** Mushrooms, Pepper, Red Onion, Sweetcorn, Fresh Tomato **Seafood** Tuna, Prawns, Anchovies	£5.20	£6.20	£7.80	£8.80	£8.80
Mighty Meat Chicken, Ham, Pepperoni, Salami, Sliced meats **Big Mighty Amigo Pizza** Double Pepperoni, Salami, Sausage, Chicken **Amigos Pizza** Meatballs, Sausage, Onion, Green Peppers, Salami **Supreme Pizza** Mushrooms, Ham, Red Onion, Pepperoni, Peppers & Salami	£5.90	£6.90	£8.80	£9.80	£9.80
Extra Toppings (each)	£0.80	£0.80	£1.00	£1.00	£1.10

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with Cheese, Mushrooms, Donner Meat, Red Onion or Pepperoni	£6.20	
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Shish & Chicken Kebab	£5.40	£6.40
Mixed Kebab Donner Chicken or Donner Shish	£5.40	£6.40
Mixed Grill Kebab Shish, Chicken, Donner Meat and Chips	£8.00	
Chicken Tikka Tandoori	£4.50	£5.50
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Veg Kebab	£2.50	£3.50

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	Reg	Lge
Chips	£1.20	£1.80
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1 10" Garlic Bread with Cheese
1 Large Chips & 1 Cans of Drink

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3 Chips, 1 Tub of Beans
Coleslaw and Bottled Drink

10 HOUSE SPECIAL £12.50
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1 Large Chips & 1 Coleslaw
1 1.5L Bottle of Drink

11 MIXED MEAL £16.00
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1 10" Garlic Bread with Cheese
1 Mixed Grill Kebab & Small Chips
Coleslaw & 1 1.5L Bottle of Drink

12 AMIGO'S SPECIAL £17.90
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Chips and a Bottle of Drink

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Chips *Sml* £1.30 *Lrg* £1.70		Chop Suey Roll £1.50	Onion Rings £1.40
Cone of Chips	£1.00	Fish Cake £1.00	Cans £1.00
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Sausage Dinner	£3.50	Gravy 80p	Yazoo Milkshake £1.20
Pie Dinner	£3.50	Curry 80p	Fruit Shoot 60p
Fish Dinner *Sml* £4.00 *Lrg* £5.00		Peas 80p	Sauce Sachet 20p
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Constabulary's 20,000 days of sick leave in five years due to psychological problems

by **Danielle Thompson**

POLICE officers and staff in Lancashire have taken almost 20,000 days of sick leave during the last five years to deal with psychological problems including stress, according to figures released following a Freedom of Information request.

The figures reveal that nationally the number of officers and staff taking long-term psychological sick leave has risen sharply in that period.

They demonstrate a 35% increase in the number of sick days taken from 4,544 in 2010-11 to 6,129 in 2014-15. It's believed that stress levels have increased as the numbers of staff in the force have declined.

Of these, 19,715 days off work were taken by Lancashire Constabulary officers for a range of mental health problems, including depression, substance abuse and self-harm – which works out as an average of two days a year per officer employed by the county's force.

Lancashire Constabulary's deputy chief constable Andy Rhodes said that stigma still prevents staff from talking about how trauma and stress affects them.

The number of police officers has plummeted by 17,000 across the country in the five years to 2015 and during this period, a further 20,000 staff members left, putting increased pressure on the officers left. And as a result of government cuts across the country, most of these roles have not been replaced, making existing roles more stressful.

DCC Andy Rhodes

Trauma

In 2013, the Champion revealed Lancashire police chiefs' plans for a massive shake-up of services in the county to be implemented by 2017 to absorb the impact of a £73 million budget cut imposed by the government.

The force also announced that 165 police officers and 275 civilian roles were to be axed – bringing the number of police officers lost by the force since the implementation of austerity measures to 700 and the total of civilian job losses to 550.

DCC Andy Rhodes said: "Over 80% of money spent on policing goes on people. We know police officers and some police staff are regularly exposed to trauma and highly stressful events which is why we need to focus all our efforts on their wellbeing and resilience.

"Culturally, stigma still exists preventing our staff from talking about how these experiences affect them and so it is the job of all police leaders to create the right culture where people feel confident to talk so that we can work on prevention rather than cure. We want our people to thrive in this incredibly rewarding job, not just survive.

"Every one of the 43 police forces in England and Wales have formally signed up to their respective Public Health charters to prioritise workplace wellbeing, the biggest workforce commitment in the country and rightly so.

"Our research shows us that emotionally-intelligent line managers, peer support groups and supportive occupational health services hold the key to supporting the exceptional people who are prepared to work in policing and other high-risk occupations."

■ ***Police chiefs back mental health charity campaign - Page 23***

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North West Ambulance Service earns top marks for sustainability

THE North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust has been given an 'excellent' rating in the latest annual report by the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU).

The unit supports the NHS and social care to promote environmental, social and financial sustainable development. It is funded by, and accountable to NHS England and Public Health England and ensures the health and care system fulfils its low-carbon potential.

As well as being the only ambulance trust to earn the top rating, the NWAS was also included in a list of best-practice examples that will be used by the SDU to help advise other northern NHS trusts and clinical commssioning groups (CCGs) on their sustainability reporting.

Paul Gilfoyle, the ambulance trust's lead for sustainability developments, said: "As an NHS organisation, we have an obligation to work in a way that has a positive effect on the communities that we serve. "Sustainability in this respect means spending public money well and wisely, making efficient use of natural resources and promoting the building of healthy and resilient communities."

Each year the SDU review all commissioner and provider sustainability reports across the NHS and score them for how well they meet the sustainability reporting criteria.

Hearing dogs topic at coffee morning club

'HEARING Dogs for Deaf People' will be the topic at the next meeting of the Hobnob coffee morning club on Wednesday, January 25 when guest speaker Mary Molloy will talk about deafness, cochlea implants and how her dog, Brie has transformed her life.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 11am to 12.15pm at Aughton Village Hall. For more information, email Julia at julia.anne.woolgar@gmail.com.

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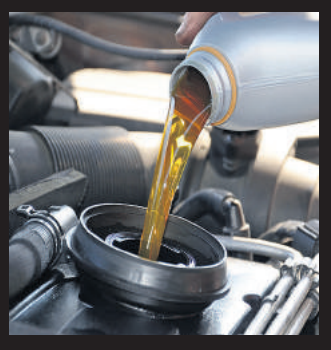

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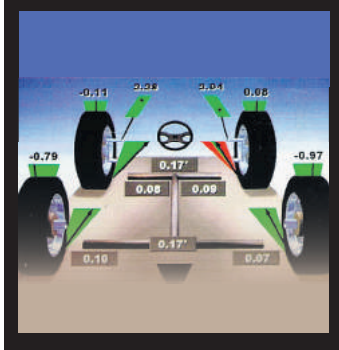

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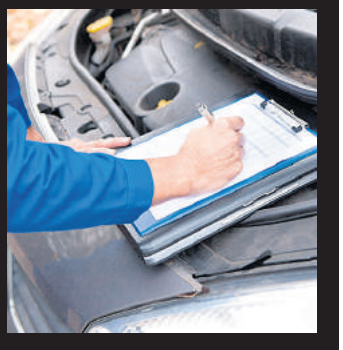

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Search launched for new chief constable

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE'S police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has launched the search for a successor to the county's current chief constable Steve Finnigan.

Mr Finnigan, who has led the force for the past 11 years, will retire in June 2017 and a nationwide search for his replacement is now under way.

Paying truibute to the outgoing chief constable, Mr Grunshaw said: "I want to thank Steve personally for the very dedicated service he has shown to Lancashire and throughout his career.

"Lancashire's position as one of the best in the country has been secured under Steve's watch and he deserves a great deal of credit for that."

Mr Finnigan took over the role of chief constable temporarily in 2005 before securing the position in a substantive role from 2007.

His police career began in Merseyside where he worked for 25 years, including policing the Toxteth riots, the miners' dispute and working on the investigation into the murder of toddler James Bulger in 1993.

He joined Lancashire in 2001 as assistant chief constable, rising to deputy 18 months later, and has been involved in some high-profile cases in the county too, including the disturbances in Burnley, the cockle pickers' tragedy and anti-terrorist operations including a failed plot to bring down a plane.

'Opportunity'

In 2006 he was awarded the Queen's Policing Medal followed by a CBE for services to policing in 2010.

The search for a new chief constable for Lancashire will see the role advertised on the College of Policing website, in the Police Professional magazine and on the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

Mr Grunshaw said: "This is a great opportunity for an ambitious police leader to take the helm of the constabulary at a time when we are continuing our transformation journey.

"I have a brand new Police and Crime Plan developed with the constabulary and local people designed to ensure policing in our area meets local needs.

"The pressure of reducing resources remains, but I remain committed to Lancashire being ranked consistently as one of the top forces in the country - delivering real change and keeping our communities safe.

"I am looking for someone who shares that passion and drive and can work with my office and our partners on that mission."

The closing date for applications is February 13 with interviews scheduled to take place over two days on February 28 and March 1.

The new chief constable will be expected to take up post on Saturday, July 1.

Clive Grunshaw and chief constable Steve Finnigan who is retiring at the end of June

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Cyclists in need of 'relief' should show some discretion

WHY do packs of cyclists think that is right to just stop anywhere en route and relieve themselves?

Just a couple of mornings ago I was at the junction of Spa Lane turning right towards Burscough at the Plough Inn, and low and behold I came upon a pack.

There they were hogging the bend in the road while one of the pack was opposite relieving himself - may I add not even making any attempt to be discreet.

There he was, stood right on a junction that at times can be quite busy, as it was at this particular time.

I am totally appalled at the behaviour of these pack cyclists who are quick enough to have a go at motorists by complaining about the lack of care when passing them on the road.

Yet they often think nothing of this type of behaviour and not giving any other members of the public (adults and children alike) a thought.

This, may I add, is not the first time that I have witnessed this kind of behaviour and other people that I know have also witnessed it also.

I can fully understand that at times there is a call of nature, especially if you are cycling around the countryside, but cyclists please have some decency for the people who live and drive in these areas and be more discreet.

To top it off each of the cyclists were wearing a camera, obviously to catch out any unsuspecting driver, maybe doing something they shouldn't!

I wonder if they filmed their pack member and his appalling behaviour?

Gail Reade,
Burscough

Too many people in the country and poor allocation of property are to blame for housing crisis

IN the UK there is not a shortage of housing. The problem is too many people in the UK and the misallocation of the present housing stock.

How the Green Party leader could say that the three million immigrants allowed into the UK by the last Labour government has no effect on the housing crisis defies belief.

The UK presently imports a large amount of food and the present policy of building houses on prime agricultural land, such as Parrs Lane, will only make the problem of food supply worse. Building more houses and roads will a also increase the problem of flooding.

With regard to the housing crisis there should be major change in council tax, with expensive properties paying too little and cheap properties, which are found in town such as Burnley and Nelson, paying too much.

On my own property I pay about 0.06% which is fair. But the outrage is that properties worth tens of millions of pounds in parts of London only pay some £1,200. A property worth £1 million should be charged about £4,000 and one worth £20 million should be charged at least £50,000 per year.

Other changes should be the abolition of the single person's rebate, charging full council tax on properties with students which has a devastating effect on the finances in West Lancs, and full and possibly more council tax charged on second homes.

J. M. Berry, Aughton

PICTURE of the week

Chris Hesketh toasts his win with a slurp of Sandgrounder Beer from the old fishermans boot. Pic by Martyn Snape

Council was right to support the people over development of Parrs Lane site

IN reply to the person who denounced the council taking on the Parrs Lane potential developers (and why did you seek anonymity?) hundreds of residents were canvassed concerning their view about this encroachment of the Green Belt, though admittedly due to time constraints imposed by the government, a number may have been missed.

My wife and I took part in the seeking of views and out of hundreds we spoke to less than a handful agreed to the loss of Green Belt.

The issue here though is different. From the research a majority do not want the development. The council do not want it either and refused permission - but the Government Inspector (only one person, note) overruled all of us.

So the will of the people, as supported by the council, counts for nothing!

There is no choice but to fight this or be trodden on!

Martin Pagett, by email

Heartwarming tale a welcome change

WHAT a wonderful, heartwarming story on the front page of the Skelmersdale Champion (December 14) of the three intrepid lads, Mike Vella, Andy Carmichael and Alan Webb climbing Machu Pichu to raise £10,000 for CRY.

It makes such a change from reading about how horrible Skem is, how rotten the people are, how bad the shops are, how dirty the parks are etc., etc., etc.

I might be a bit biased as I've known these lads for many years but they are real salt-of-the earth people who know no other way than to treat people with respect and do what they can for people who really need help.

Mike, Andy and Alan I and every other Skem person with an ounce of decency in their body salute and thank you.

Peter Etherington, Uppingham, Skelmersdale

Time to support people of all ages suffering from social isolation

LONELINESS and social isolation can be linked to increased death rates, blood pressure, risk of dementia and symptoms of depression. A lack of social connections has been reported to be as damaging to health as smoking and as big a risk as obesity.

Almost 80 per cent of people have experienced loneliness, with almost one fifth of people in the North West saying they're 'always' or 'often' lonely. With a rising and ageing population, those numbers are expected to grow.

Our research has shown that interventions are most effective when preventing initial or temporary experiences of loneliness from becoming chronic. Left ignored, the impacts can escalate, leading to misery for individuals and unnecessary additional pressure on stretched NHS and care services.

Our work on preventative projects - such as assisting somebody to return home from hospital, making sure they have enough to eat or take their medication - demonstrates real impacts on individuals. Many of the people we support live alone. Without us they would return home from hospital to an empty house.

Over the next two years the British Red Cross will provide direct, personalised support for up to 12,500 people experiencing loneliness or social isolation across the UK. New teams of dedicated staff and volunteers will deliver new services in Blackpool and 40 other locations around the country.

We all have a part to play, from individuals within the community to local authorities ensuring appropriate services exist.

Mike Adamson, chief executive, British Red Cross

Milkman's thoughtful gesture

I HAD the most wonderful thing happen to me on the morning of Wednesday, December 21.

I woke up and went outside to bring in the milk from the doorstep and the most beautiful plant, a poinsettia, had been placed next to the milk with a lovely little Christmas card with Christmas wishes from my milkman, Mike!

It was such a beautiful gesture, it was wonderful and it meant so much to me as I am in my 80s and I have not been very well this year. It was so thoughtful.

I rang Grimshaw Lane Dairy where he works to thank him and his colleagues didn't even know what he had done! So sweet.

Happy resident, Green Lane, Ormskirk

Speeding pleas fell on deaf ears

MY wife and I live in Moss Lane, Burscough near to where the daughter of a neighbour was seriously injured as the result of a traffic incident in September.

Over a long period of time we have been campaigning on the issue of speeding traffic to all the relevant parties concerned.

However, the bottom line is, we are led to believe, that the level of incidents do not warrant speed cameras.

I disagree as this is the second time our property has been involved in a traffic accident. Most of the traffic along this section still travels well in excess of 30mph.

William East, Burscough

Thanks a lot, folks!

ON behalf of the Poppy Appeal organiser, the Poppy Appeal and Harry McKenzie at the Concourse shopping centre, we would like to thank the people of Skelmersdale for their generous response to this year's appeal.

In total £10,339.02 was raised in the town this year for the Poppy Appeal - you have outdone yourselves once again and we are proud to be a part of this great community.

Harry Keeling, Poppy Appeal organiser

Advertising Feature

A Sunday Times Top 200 School

Merchant Taylors' Schools receive national recognition

Merchant Taylors' Boys' and Girls' Schools are delighted to have been recently placed in the top 200 UK Independent Schools in the Sunday Times Parent Power tables, which reflects the excellent combined performances of the boys and girls at A level and GCSE from summer 2016. This is well-deserved national recognition in a year when both Schools have been through rigorous inspections by the Independent Schools Inspectorate and received outstanding outcomes.

Excellence is at the heart of both schools, which continue to offer the most demanding and highly regarded subjects in the curriculum. The schools enjoy ongoing success in local and national competitions – both academic and extra-curricular. In the past month for instance, at the Boys' school, pupils have won the North West Finals of the Senior UK Maths Challenge, going through to the national finals in the Spring. Two Year 12 pupils are through to the finals of the Frank Moran Young Writer's Competition with a potential first prize of £1000, whilst another Year 12 pupil has been entered into the St John's College (Oxford) classics and ancient history essay competition in February. In addition, our young chemists recently excelled in the Merseyside round of the Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition. At the Girls' School similar achievements include a gold medal in the Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge; in chess the U14s have made it through to the North of England finals and a team of lower sixth Geographers won the Sefton Coastal Challenge. Individuals have also excelled in the areas of drama and music with one girl being nominated for a BAFTA and a talented Flautist winning a place in the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the Junior Royal Northern College of Music.

"Headmaster, David Cook and Headmistress, Louise Robinson agree that choosing your A-level subjects carefully is really important – especially if you have aspirations to study at a leading university". "Universities look for students who not only have good grades, but grades in the right subjects for which they have applied. Current offers to our Year 13 boys and girls have already come in from leading Russell Group Universities including Edinburgh and Durham, Liverpool and Bristol, and from the London School of Economics and Warwick. And of course we mustn't forget a group of outstanding students who were recently interviewed by Oxford and Cambridge."

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SOURCES

The Daily Telegraph tables August 2016
guardian.co.uk/education/a-levels/2016
School website

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Hospital trust chiefs still in dark over cost of suspensions

BOSSES at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust still have no idea how much the long-running investigation into staff suspensions has cost.

It is thought the figure could now exceed £1m - with at least £800,000 being spent paying four top trust bosses who were suspended over whistle-blowing allegations back in August 2015.

Two, including chief executive Jonathan Parry, were found guilty of gross misconduct following a lengthy investigation which took more than 12 months to complete. Both are now appealing the decision.

As the four received full pay during the investigation, the trust spent an extra £420,000 on funding replacement staff. But when the total figures are added together it emerges that the entire saga has cost the trust around £850,000 in staff pay alone.

The Champion can now reveal however that the trust are still waiting to be billed by external governing bodies who were brought in to conduct part of the investigation, meaning they are as yet unaware of just how much they will have spent overall.

Any final 'invoice' could easily see the final figure hit the million pound mark.

A Freedom of Information Request by the Champion into the investigation included asking the trust how much the suspension saga had cost, leading them to admit they were 'still not sure'.

A spokesperson for Southport and Omrksirk NHS Hospital Trust responded: "The information is not held by the trust.

"The trust has not received final invoices and agreed final costs for the investigation.

"We recognise that there is also legitimate public interest in the amount spent on the investigations. As a consequence the trust shall disclose the cost of the investigations when the costs are finalised."

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

Although little is known publicly about why the action was taken against the staff, chief executive Jonathan Parry, chief operating officer Sheilah Finnegan, human resources director Sharon Partington and deputy director of performance Richard McCarthy were suspended in August 2015 following what was deemed to be 'whistle-blowing' allegations.

However after the extensive investigation - including by two internal and one external governing body – it was found that both Richard McCarthy and Sheila Finnegan were innocent of all allegations.

Jonathan Parry and Sharon Partington though were both found guilty of misconduct by the trust.

Mr Parry was sacked from his role while Ms Partington had already resigned. Both have appealed the decision.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper said: "There were significant whistle-blowing allegations made that led to the four senior executives being suspended and it was right and proper that these allegations were fully investigated.

"But the senior executives investigated are not the only consideration in this process, there is also the effects on the staff, especially those who bravely spoke out, and ensuring the trust can focus on delivering the best quality of care for its patients.

"We do need to know the cost of the entire investigation and disciplinary process. We also need to know why it took so long to complete, with full explanation of reasons for any delays in the process.

"NHS England needs to see if the disciplinary process can be streamlined in any way ensuring due process and good value for taxpayers."

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Weekly health walks are back

Residents invited to join in sociable rambles across borough or tackle longer courses with council's ranger service

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being invited to grab some comfortable shoes and walk their way to better health in 2017.

The borough council is once again holdings its weekly health walks starting from this week and is inviting people to join in the short, sociable walks across different locations in the borough.

Walks are open to all, are approximately one hour long, a well-earned 'cuppa' awaits at the end and you don't have to book in advance - just go along and get some fresh air into your lungs.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "One of the top priorities in the Council Plan is to be ambitious for the health and wellbeing of our communities.

"If you want to be more active and healthier in 2017 our health walks can really help you with that. So let your feet hit the street and come and join the walkers. A warm welcome awaits - no need to book, just turn up!"

Mixture

The weekly health walks start again for 2017 from the week beginning January 9 and meeting points are as follows:

- Tuesdays, 10 to 11am, starting from the bowling pavilion at Richmond Park, Burscough.
- Tuesdays, 10.30 to 11.30am meet outside Skelmersdale Library, Southway, Skelmersdale.
- Wednesdays, 1 to 2pm, starting from the bowling pavilion at Coronation Park, Ormskirk.
- Thursdays, 10 to 11am from Banks Leisure Centre, Banks.

Walks will take in a mixture of on-street footways and off-street paths and you are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather and ground conditions.

For more information about the health walks, contact leisure services on 01695 555804 or 01695 585145.

If you fancy longer walks the council's parks and countryside ranger service organises regular countryside walks, including the popular Walking Festival, which runs throughout August.

There will be intermediate walks of about five or six miles on the first Monday of each month and a longer walk of between eight and 12 miles on the third Sunday of each month.

People taking part can explore countryside and discover the wildlife in West Lancashire.

Forthcoming walks are the Beacon Canal Loop of approximately eight miles on Sunday, January 15 (meet at Beacon Country Park's ranger station at 9.50am for a 10am start); and the five-mile loop around Abbey Lakes and Dean Wood on Monday, February 6 (meet at Abbey Lakes 9.50am for a 10am start).

For more information contact the rangers on 01695 622794. Due to the advanced nature of these walks it is advised that you wear suitable sturdy footwear with ankle support and suitable clothing for the weather.

Lady golfers' charity boost

LADY golfers at a local club hit the target for a worthy cause when they raised more than £3,000 for charity.

Ormskirk Golf Club's Ladies' captain Lindsay Ross presented a cheque for £3,382 to Angela Cholet, chief executive of The First Step, a Kirkby-based charity which offers emotional and practical support to victims of domestic abuse.

The ladies raised the funds by hosting a special Christmas-lunch themed event including a raffle and auction.

Ormskirk Golf Club Ladies' captain Lindsay Ross and members present a cheque for £3,382 to Angela Cholet, chief executive of The First Step charity

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Tributes paid to charity champion DJ

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular DJ who gave up a lot of his time to charity work, who passed away over the festive period.

Stan Livingstone, 74, died in hospital on New Year's Day. He had volunteered at the Ormskirk and Magull District Lions' fund-raisers for more than three decades, providing entertainment for youngsters and their families at their events.

Bill Jones from the Ormskirk and Magull District Lions said: "We were deeply saddened to hear about the death of popular DJ Stan Livingstone, who supported us by performing at our fundraising events for more than 32 years. We want to highlight all of the work that he has done for us and pay tribute to such a wonderful man."

Cattery plans submitted

PLANS have been submitted to create a stable cattery in Scarisbrick.

Applicant Deborah Bradley has submitted a planning application to West Lancs Council for a timber cattery comprising six cat rooms, a quarantine room and reception room at the rear of residential property in Wood Moss Lane. Residents have until Friday, January 13 to comment on the proposals.

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

'New' Titanic theory didn't cut any ice with me

I FIND I probably should apologise to my local councillors – kind of.

I received a most illuminating and pleasant, phone call from a senior Sefton councillor who pointed out that all councillors' names, addresses and phone numbers are in the public domain via the Sefton Council website.

That means that most folk these days can easily obtain this information, leaving only computer ignoramuses such as I (and quite a few others too, I believe) in the dark.

Anyway, I've found another, totally different thing to gripe about this week.

Ever since I was a boy I have been fascinated by the RMS Titanic tragedy. I well remember persuading my parents to take me to see what is still regarded as factually easily the best film of the many made of the event, *A Night to Remember*, at the Waterloo Odeon, way back in 1958.

So it was with great interest that I settled down to watch the Channel 4 TV documentary, *Titanic – The New Evidence* on New Year's Day. I'm always sceptical about these productions which promise to unravel mysteries but usually fail to do so. How many times have we been invited to find out what really happened to the Mary Celeste or the real story of the Bermuda Triangle? But at least this time I was interested to hear what this 'new evidence' was. And of course it wasn't - new that is.

It all centred around a fire which had been smouldering in one of the doomed ship's bunkers for days before she set off on her fateful maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. It was not unusual for this to happen, caused by spontaneous combustion of the coal, and such fires were difficult to put out because it involved the laborious task of digging out hundreds of tons of the black stuff. In this case, the fire in Boiler Room 5 was finally extinguished on Saturday morning, April 13, 1912 - a day and a half before the ship struck the iceberg.

The point the documentary was making was that the fire was next to the watertight bulkhead with Boiler Room 6 and the idea was that the severe heat had damaged and weakened this bulkhead, which eventually gave way, though the only 'new' evidence of this was was an apparent scorch mark on the outside of the hull, seen on 'recently discovered' photographs.

It is true that this bulkhead did eventually fail, the point is though that the ship would have gone down anyway. The narrator of of the documentary (who is flogging a book on the subject) reckoned though that if this bulkhead had held, the sinking would have been delayed by an hour-and-a-half, which, he said, would have given time for the rescue ship Carpathia to have taken all the passengers and crew off the stricken vessel.

Since the Titanic struck the iceberg at 12.40pm and sank at 2.20am and the Carpathia did not arrive at the scene until 4am, this is simply not true. Even if the possibly optimistic figure of 90 extra minutes are included, the rescuers would have arrived too late.

There was also a point of omission too. According to the programme, Captain E. J. Smith, master of the Titanic, ignored ice warnings and failed to slow his ship, which was steaming at about 22.5 knots.

In fact, Captain Smith ordered a change of course more southerly which should have taken his ship clear of known ice. Had he not done so, the tragedy probably would not have happened!

As for speed, it was normal practice not to slow for ice (which it was assumed would be spotted in time to be avoided). Had the ship been the much faster Lusitania or Mauretania it would probably have been travelling at more like 26 knots and again would not have encountered the fatal berg!

As my mum used to say, "If ifs and ands were pots and pans, there'd be no work for tinkers."

ADVERTORIAL FEATURE

Bowel cancer screening explained...

What is bowel cancer screening?

Bowel cancer screening is a simple and private test that can be done at home. People aged 60-74 years, who are registered with a GP, will receive a bowel screening test kit through the post once every two years. It's meant for people with no symptoms and can detect the early signs of bowel cancer. The test looks for tiny traces of blood in the poo, which can't be seen with the naked eye.

Dr Stephen Gaduzo

How do people take the test?

The kit comes with clear step-by-step instructions. You can find out more at www.cruk.org.uk/beclearoncancer

What happens if the test shows blood in the sample?

You should get your test results in the post within two weeks. If your test result is normal, you'll receive your next test kit in the post in two years. If the test shows any blood in your poo, you'll be invited to the hospital for a further test. The letter will explain all the details.

It's important to remember that if there is blood in your poo, it doesn't mean it will turn out to be cancer. There could be many reasons for it. But if it is cancer, catching it at an early stage means it is much easier to treat successfully. Diagnosing cancer early is one of the most powerful ways to beat it.

Why is bowel cancer screening important?

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK and the risk of developing bowel cancer gets higher as you get older. Bowel cancer screening has been shown to reduce the risk of dying from the disease. It's your choice whether or not to do bowel screening, and you should read the information provided with the test kit to help you decide. I recommend people take the test.

If you have questions, visit www.cruk.org.uk/beclearoncancer or call NHS Freephone on 0800 707 60 60.

"I'm glad I took the test"

Norbert Lawson

Norbert Lawson, 72, from Stockport, was a bit unsure about the bowel screening test when he first received it through the post but he'd read about it in the paper and thought it was probably something he should do.

Norbert's test found tiny traces of blood in his poo, so he was invited to the hospital for a further test. The follow-up test found a small growth in his bowel, but it wasn't cancerous. The hospital removed the growth, as these growths can sometimes develop into cancer later on.

Norbert said "I was treated with the greatest respect and dignity at the hospital. I'm glad I did the test and I'd recommend others to take part in bowel cancer screening."

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This little kit could save your life.

Aged 60 – 74? You'll be sent a free bowel cancer screening kit in the post once every two years. It's meant for people with no symptoms and can find bowel cancer at an early stage, when it's easier to treat successfully.

If you have questions, call NHS Freephone 0800 707 60 60

Don't ignore it. Take the test.

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Must be registered with a GP to receive a kit. Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103). © Cancer Research UK 2016.

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Last call for borough businesses to enter prestigious awards scheme

TIME is running out for West Lancashire businesses to enter a prestigious awards scheme which aims to recognise the best firms in the county.

The deadline for this year's Red Rose Awards - which will crown the best companies across 26 categories - is midnight on Friday, January 13.

Last year's event, organised by Lancashire Business View magazine, attracted more than 1,100 of the county's top business people for the celebration at Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

Richard Slater, publisher of Lancashire Business View, said: "First and foremost the Red Rose Awards are about giving Lancashire business the opportunity to show how great they are and how deep the county's commercial excellence runs.

'Fantastic'

"We are giving business the chance to shout about what they do and why they are the best at it – and we hope they'll grasp that opportunity with both hands by entering.

"We know the business community love participating in the awards – if you've experienced the Red Rose Awards either by entering, judging, sponsoring or attending on the night; we ask that you encourage your clients, suppliers and associates to enter now!

"We are also proud to have our fantastic headline sponsors, Forbes Solicitors and Barclays, on board for 2017. These are blue-chip brands and their calibre says much about the esteem in which these awards are held."

Meanwhile, the charity partner for Red Rose Awards 2017 is Cash for Kids and funds will be raised at the awards event to support their work.

To take part in the Red Rose Awards, visit www.redroseawards.co.uk.

The presentation of the awards will once again be held at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on Thursday, March 9.

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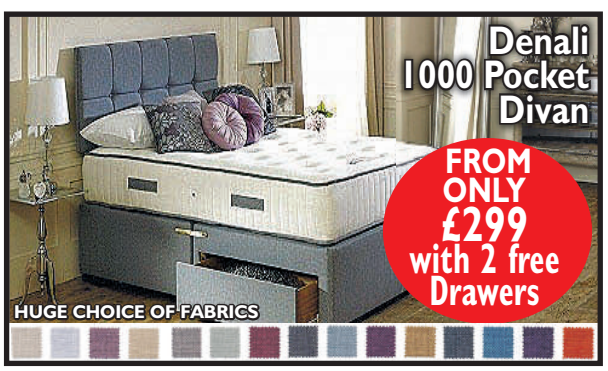

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Police chiefs pledge support for mental health charity campaign

COUNTY police chiefs have pledged to support a campaign which aims to end discrimination around mental health problems in the workplace.

Lancashire Constabulary has joined other emergency services and associations in signing up to mental health charity Mind's Blue Light campaign to challenge the stigma that can be associated with being open about mental health and to offer support to members of staff who work in the emergency services.

The county's police and crime commissioner Clive Grunshaw and chief constable Steve Finnigan signed the charity's 'Time to change' pledge, joining more than 400 employers across the country who vowed to promote psychological well-being within their organisations.

Mr Grunshaw said: "Police officers and staff play vital roles in our communities, supporting the public and often working in incredibly stressful situations.

"The public always tell me how much they value the work these officers do.

"We need to ensure we are looking out for our people.

"Signing up to Mind's 'Time to change' pledge is more than just words, there is a whole action plan behind it that will provide the support that's needed."

Members of the emergency services who are concerned about their well-being, or those who are concerned for a family member, colleague or friend working for an emergency service, can contact Mind staff on 0300 303 5999 or email bluelightinfo@mind.org.uk.

Chief constable Steve Finnigan and commissioner Clive Grunshaw with the Mind 'Time to Change' pledge.

Care company award

A CARE company which has a branch in Ormskirk has won a specialist industry award.

Home Instead Senior Care, which has bases throughout the North West including Heskin Lane, Ormskirk, was named Homecare Provider of the Year in the LaingBuission Awards 2016 at a ceremony in London.

The award completes a successful year for the company which specialises in providing non-medical care in the home for older people. Other accolades they have accumulated include the Queens Award for Enterprise and Innovation in recognition of their care services and the Princess Royal Training Award for their focus on employee training and on-going skill development.

Manager Amy McEvoy said: "Our dedicated caregivers and key staff consistently deliver care with respect, dignity, dedication, compassion and professionalism. It is gratifying to see this recognised."

LaingBuisson is a leading provider of information and market intelligence on the independent health, community care and childcare sectors.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Boost your retirement income with State Pension top up

What is State Pension top up and is it right for you?

With applications for the Government's State Pension top up scheme closing on 5 April 2017, it's worth considering if it could be right for you.

It is a government scheme that allows you to boost your retirement income by between £1 and £25 a week in exchange for a lump sum payment.

To take advantage of this scheme you will need to be entitled to a UK State Pension and have reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 – that's men born before 6 April 1951, and women born before 6 April 1953.

The boosted payment is:

- Guaranteed for life
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WHAT IT COSTS

The amount you would need to contribute will depend on the boosted amount you want and how old you are, as the cost reduces with age. An online calculator can help you calculate what your contribution would be.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

The scheme isn't right for everyone, and there are alternative ways to boost retirement income. State Pension top up is taxable as income, and we recommend seeking independent advice before taking-up the scheme.

HOW TO APPLY

Just apply online at gov.uk/statepensiontopup and we'll post you everything you need.

Remember that the deadline for online applications is midnight 5 April 2017

Want to find out more about your State Pension?
Whether you're eligible for State Pension top up or not, you can find out more about the State Pension – what it is, what you'll get and when you'll get it – at gov.uk/yourstatepension.

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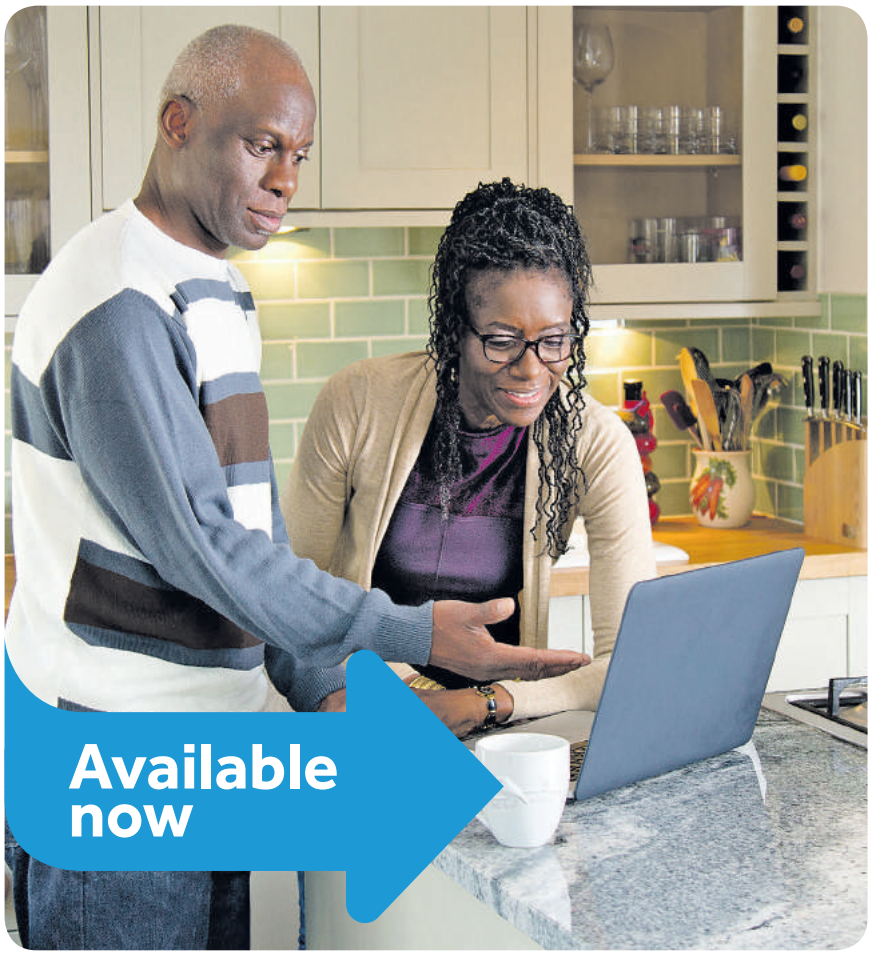

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Health chiefs consider chronic pain management plan for West Lancs patients

A NEW specialist chronic pain management plan could be introduced for patients in West Lancashire.

NHS chiefs are considering introducing the additional support service as no specialist chronic pain service currently exists in the borough and patients are currently managed by GPs and hospitals.

Chronic pain is defined as one that persists beyond the point at which healing would be expected, usually at around three to six months. The new service would offer specialist care and introduce a holistic approach to a patient's individual requirements including physical activity, nutrition and psychological needs.

The idea was supported by NHS West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) membership of local GP practices.

Dr Vik Mittal, local GP and board member of NHS West Lancs CCG, said: "Living with chronic pain is not pleasant for anyone, which is why it's so important we have the right services in place that are accessible for everyone. The possibility of developing a new service is an exciting prospect for West Lancashire, which puts patients at the heart of their own care allowing them to take control and manage their own well-being."

Local health commissioners have produced a full update on their plans for chronic pain, which can be seen online at westlancashireccg.nhs.uk and are requesting comments by Thursday, February 9.

To request a hard copy, call 01695 588 203 or email myview@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk

Dr Vik Mittal

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Tesco grant boost for wildlife project at former brick works site

Councils to work with community on scheme to clear scrub areas and develop meadows

by **Danielle Thompson**

A £10,000 wildlife and habitat management project is set to be launched in Burscough.

The Burscough Brickworks site between Abbey Lane and Mill Dam Lane, which is owned by West Lancs Borough Council, has been awarded a £10,000 grant from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative, after it was nominated for the scheme by local residents last year.

The borough council has teamed up with Burscough Parish Council and they are looking to work with the local community to develop the site, formerly Bridge's Brick and Tile Works, for the benefit of both West Lancs residents and wildlife.

The work will include clearing scrub areas, developing meadow areas, tree and marsh management. And a Friends group will be created to manage the area.

Supermarket giant Tesco teamed up with the community and environmental charity Groundwork to create the Bags of Help initiative across England and Wales with community groups and projects in more than 400 regions awarded grants of up to £12,000 from the proceeds of the 5p plastic bag charge introduced last year.

Stephen Kent, leisure operations manager for West Lancs Council, said: "I am delighted that this project has been voted for and awarded funding from the Tesco Bags of Help programme. This is an excellent scheme for supporting projects and the environment and re-investing funds in the local area.

"Having the support from local residents is essential in the development of the project and I am sure that this will ensure ongoing involvement, for the benefit of local residents and wildlife.

"The £10,000 will be used to undertake a programme of habitat management including clearing scrub areas, developing meadow areas, tree and marsh management. All of the activities will be used to attract and develop a local Friends group which will have an ongoing role in the management of this valuable local wildlife site."

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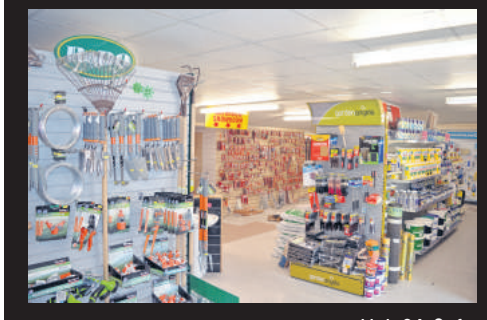

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Pupils swap books for binoculars to take part in Birdwatch 2017

The blackbird - still the most popular playground visitor

Report by **Henry James**

THOUSANDS of pupils across the UK, including West Lancashire, are expected to take part in the country's biggest schools wildlife survey at the end of this month.

The RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch 2017, which takes place from January 28 to 30, helps children discover the wonderful wildlife they share their school grounds with, while providing a helpful insight into which species are thriving or declining.

According to research conducted by the RSPB, one in five children are disconnected from nature. The Big Schools' Birdwatch aims to inspire children to care about the natural world around them in the hope they'll want to help protect it for future generations.

Last year almost 100,000 pupils and teachers from schools all across the UK took part by counting the birds that visited their school grounds, and it is hoped even more will take part this year.

Over the years, more than 70 different species have been recorded in school grounds, ranging from starlings and house sparrows, to red kites and green woodpeckers. The blackbird remained the most common playground visitor in 2016 while starlings held onto the second spot. And for the first time wood pigeons made the top three, jumping up the list from sixth position the year before.

Opportunities

Since its launch in 2002, the Big Schools' Birdwatch has provided opportunities for children and teachers to learn about how to give nature a home in their school grounds. Many schools prepare for the event in advance by putting up feeders and nestboxes and making bird cake. Seeing and counting the birds coming to their feeders during the Big Schools Birdwatch is the perfect reward for their efforts.

Emma Reed, RSPB education, families and youth manager in Northern England, said: "Taking part in Big Schools Birdwatch uses just one lesson or lunchtime so it's really easy to get involved. We hope the excitement of taking part will then inspire children in West Lancashire to get out and experience more of the wildlife around them.

"With studies showing that children are becoming increasingly disconnected from nature, a concern that is linked to poorer physical and mental health, we want to provide young people with as many opportunities as possible to have fun exploring the natural world around them."

The Big Schools' Birdwatch is the school version of the Big Garden Birdwatch – the world's biggest garden wildlife survey aimed at families and individuals.

To register to take part go to the website r spb.org.uk/schoolswatch. Everything schools need to take part is available to download from the RSPB website.

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Monday 9.15am
Paula: 07484 263698
NEW GROUP FROM 2ND JAN

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
Monday 1.00pm
Sue: 07817444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Monday 6.30pm
Michelle: 07931125172
NEW GROUP FROM 2ND JAN

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
Monday 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
Monday 9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

TUESDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane,
Tuesday 9.15 & 11.15am
Kathy: 01695 423 658

WEDNESDAY

BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion, Lord Street
Wednesday 3.30pm 5.30pm & 7.30pm
From 4th January
Kathy: 01695 423 658
NEW SESSION & NEW TIME

FAZAKERLEY
British Legion, Longmoor Lane
Next to Shell Garage
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Eileen: 0151 548 0658

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
4.30 & 6.30pm
Sue: 07957 531 346

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
Wednesday 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302
NEW TIME

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
Wednesday 9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302
NEW GROUP

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
Thursday 8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
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MAGHULL
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Jackie: 07888 830892

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Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
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Tina and Sue with Stephen Mulhern

Slimming consultants meet TV presenter

TWO slimming consultants from Ormskirk were thrilled to meet TV presenter Stephen Mulhern at the annual Slimming World Awards.

Tina Whewell who runs the Slimming World group at Ormskirk Rugby Club on Wednesdays and Sue Allt, who runs a group at the Ashurst Centre in Skelmersdale on Mondays and at St Anne's Catholic Primary School in Ormskirk on Saturdays, met the Catchphrase and Britain's Got More Talent presenter when he co-hosted the event with the organisation's founder Margaret Miles-Bramwell OBE.

Tina said: "It's so rewarding to see people being able to do things that they didn't think possible before losing weight, whether that's having more energy and confidence, taking up new hobbies, reducing medication or doing more with their family and friends.

"Every week I feel so lucky to play even a small part in people's achievements and I felt very honoured to represent our Slimming World groups when I met Stephen. He was bowled over by the difference Slimming World makes to people and how it changes their lives."

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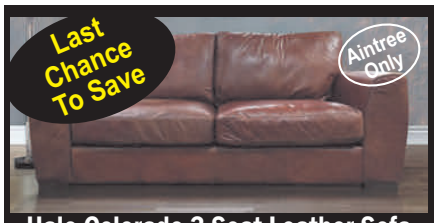

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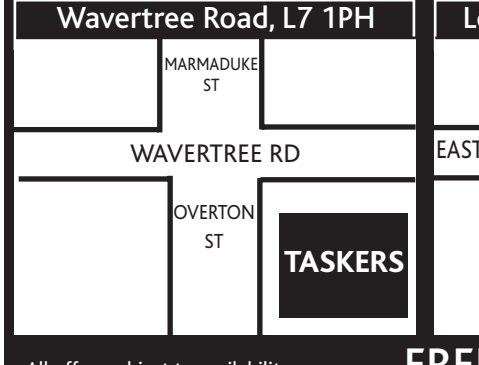

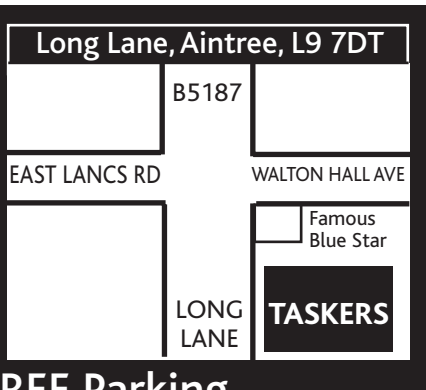

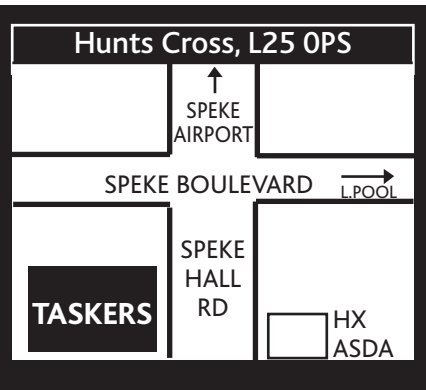

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School stalwart Jan is pride of community

Jan Lyness (centre) receives her certificate from the leader of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Jennifer Mein (left) and chief executive Jo Turton

A TEACHING assistant at a West Lancashire school reached the finals of a prestigious award for making a difference to her community.

Jan Lyness, who works at St Mark's CE Primary School in Scarisbrick, was recently presented with her finalist certificate for the Lancashire Pride Award from Lancashire County Council by the council's chief executive Jo Turton and leader of the council, County Councillor Jennifer Mein at an awards ceremony in Preston.

Mrs Lyness works with the teachers to meet the personal, social and curriculum-related needs of the pupils, as well as taking on the roles of staff governor, employee health and safety representative and parent-school advisor.

This is not the first time that she has been rewarded by the council. Last year, she was awarded two Pride Awards for the Employee of the Year and the Customer Service Award.

'Shining example'

Marilyn Freeman, headteacher at St Mark's CE Primary, said: "Mrs Lyness is part of our school and is well respected by everybody in our school and wider community.

"We are a close-working team and all work extremely hard to give every child the best start in life. She is a shining example of the great things we have at our school and I'm delighted that she was nominated and a finalist.

"She always delivers, never fails and has taken on so many other duties and areas of responsibility since she started at the school more than 20 years ago.

"All of the children love her, she's approachable and always thinks of ways she can get the best out of the children as individuals.

"So much happens before, during and after school that nobody sees. However, she is always the first person to greet you with a smile first thing every morning, ready for a great day of learning and achievement."

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Banning orders imposed on men involved in gang violence and drug dealing

TWO men have been banned from areas of the North West - including West Lancashire - after a court ruled that they had engaged in, encouraged or assisted in gang-related violence and drug dealing in Preston.

At Liverpool County Court, a judge ordered final gang injunction orders against five of six defendants that will be in place for two years until November 2018. The sixth defendant's injunction remains on an interim basis until March 2017.

Four of the defendants who have been handed full orders are Haq Nawaz, 22, from Leyland, Dil Nawaz, 21, from Manchester, Aaron Hampson, 24 of no fixed abode and Fidel Hughes, 18, from Liverpool. Dil Nawaz and Fidel Hughes have been banned from Southport and West Lancashire.

A fifth man, aged 38 from Preston, was also handed a full order however, as a result of his positive involvement with the Probation Service and his efforts to seek employment, he has not been named.

An interim injunction is in place on a sixth man, Abid Umar, 36, from Preston until a further hearing in March 2017.

Haq Nawaz is also currently serving a 32-month sentence at Preston prison for drug offences following a drug warrant in Leyland where £29,000 of cocaine was found.

The orders prohibit the six men from:
Being in certain areas of Preston, Leyland, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
Associating or communicating with each other and a list of named people.
Engaging in any abusive, threatening or intimidating conduct.
Being in a motor vehicle with two or more other men in certain defined areas.
Wearing a balaclava or scarf to conceal identity.
Being in possession of a knife or bladed article, a firearm or imitation firearm or drug related equipment.

Other prohibitions are also in place.

Any breaches can result in that person being given a prison sentence of up to two years and/or a fine.

The orders were granted at Liverpool County Court after Lancashire Constabulary submitted various police officer statements, details of police incident logs and hearsay evidence from members of the local community.

Detective Chief Inspector Claire McEnery said: "We're keen to pursue all avenues which allow us to target any individual causing problems within our communities and we will increasingly look to Gang Injunction Orders as a way of putting an end to criminal activity."

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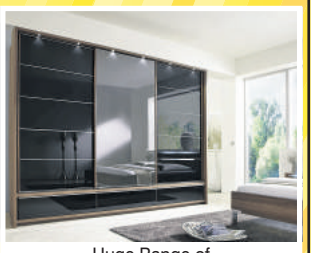
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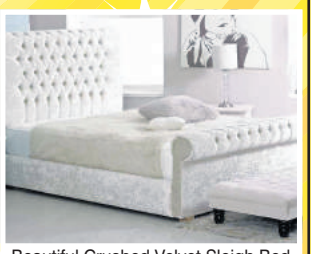
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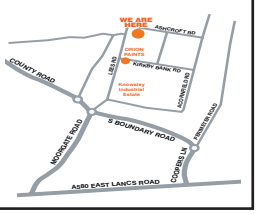

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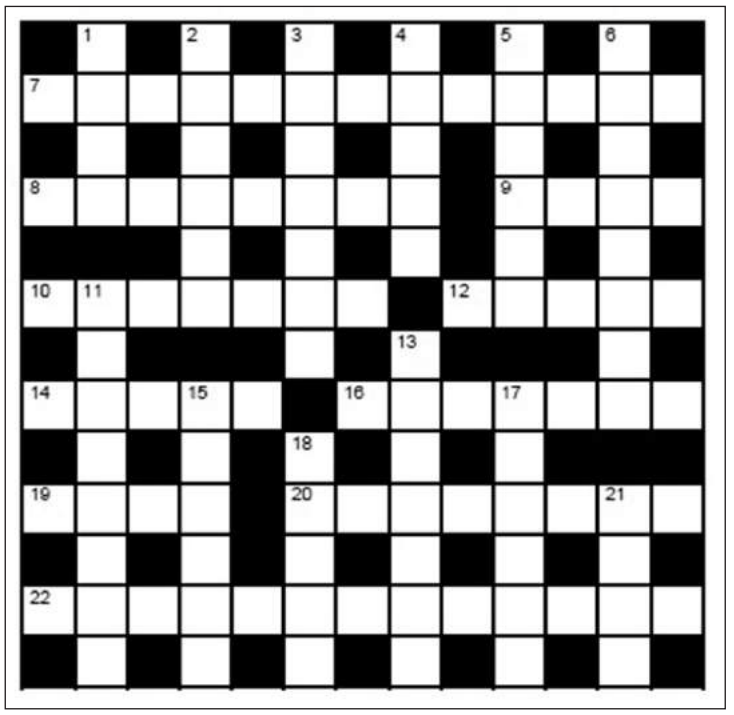

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Foment. 8 Nougat. 9 Palm. 10 Rhapsody. 11 Adjourn. 13 Litre. 15 Latte. 17 Unchain. 20 Sidearms. 21 Oleo. 22 Baboon. 23 Layman.

Down: 1 Coward. 2 Ream. 3 Stir-fry. 4 Sneak. 5 Gunsmith. 6 Pander. 12 On The Dot. 14 Oneself. 16 Animal. 18 Icecap. 19 Crane. 21 Onyx.

ACROSS

7. Examination intended to qualify successful candidates for higher education (13)
8. A sham argument easily refuted (5, 3)
9. Sound made by owls (4)
10. A red liqueur (4, 3)
12. Mollusc with single spiral shell (5)
14. Burn with hot liquid (5)
16. Tenth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar (7)
19. Self-righteous person (4)
20. Alcoholic drink of spirits mixed with other ingredients (8)
22. Someone who is stoic in the face of adversity is said to show a..(5, 5, 3)

DOWN

1. Tall, upright structure on a boat (4)
2. A series of eight notes occupying the interval between (and including) two notes (6)
3. Card game in which players collect pairs (3, 5)
4. One of the two main branches of Islam (5)
5. A female fowl (6)
6. Never (2, 2, 4)
11. Make deep cuts in flesh or skin (8)
13. Large, frozen areas typically found at the North and South Poles (3, 4)
15. Finish working on a computer (3, 3)
17. A strong expression of public disapproval or anger (6)
18. Happen (5)
21. Long-legged wading bird with a downcurved bill (4)

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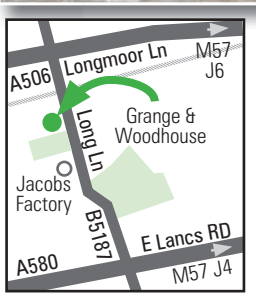

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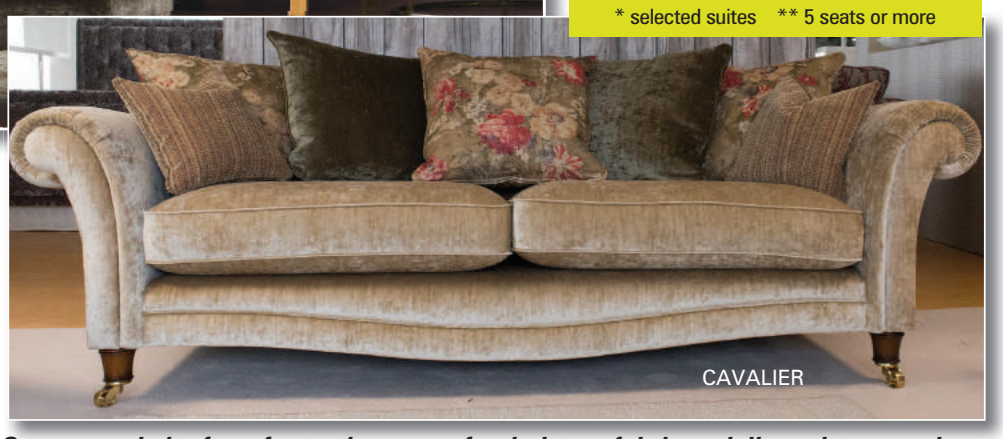

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Tips on staying safe and healthy when cold weather strikes

HEALTH chiefs have issued tips to help West Lancs residents to stay healthy and safe when the weather turns colder.

The government's Public Health England Cold Weather Plan sets out a series of actions that health and social care organisations, voluntary and community groups, and individuals can take and plan for cold temperatures to help reduce cold-related illnesses and deaths.

Top tips to prepare for colder weather include the following:

- Look out for friends and family who may be vulnerable to the cold and ensure they have access to warm food, drinks and are managing to heat their homes adequately.
- Try to maintain indoor temperatures to at least 18°C, particularly if you are not mobile, have long-term illness or are 65 or over.
- Stay tuned for weather forecasts, ensure you are stocked with food and medications in advance (have deliveries or ask a friend to help).
- Take weather into account when planning your activity over the following days.
- Avoid exposing yourself to cold or icy outdoor conditions if you are at a higher risk of cold-related illness or falls.
- Discuss with friends and neighbours about clearing snow and ice from in front of your house and public walkways nearby, if unable to do so yourself.

Members of the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are also advising residents to be prepared for this cold weather.

CCG chair, Dr John Caine, a GP in Parbold, said: "We'd like to remind people about the options available to them if they or a member of their family becomes ill.

"Cold weather will put added pressure onto our health services, so it's really important to examine your options and use the right service.

"If you do become ill we ask that you think about self-care before seeing your GP, visiting the walk-in centre or dialling 999. Your pharmacist can offer advice and medication for common illnesses without an appointment and the NHS 111 service is available for all non-emergencies.

"We would also advise those who are eligible to have a flu jab to get protected. Whether you are pregnant, have very young children, are an elderly person or have a long-term health condition, such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, or are a carer; you will be eligible for the vaccination."

Steve McGing (left) is presented with his black belt by chief instructor John Errington

Steve rises to black belt challenge

AS a former newsagent Steve McGing is accustomed to early rising and he was quick to rise to a new challenge when he took up karate after calling time on his days behind the counter.

And the 58-year-old, who trains at the Ormskirk Shotokan Karate Club based at Ormskirk School in Wigan Road, has completed his black belt qualification only six years after taking up the sport.

Steve has always had a keen interest in sports, having played squash for Merseyside, been a member of Southport Cycling Club, played football and completing the Paris Marathon before deciding to try his hand at the martial art.

He said: "I owned a newsagents in Maghull for nearly 20 years and when I retired from that I needed a new challenge so decided to test myself at karate!

"Sensei John Errington has guided and encouraged me, helping me to 'find a way' when my well-worn knees were struggling. I would recommend it to anyone who fancies a new challenge, whatever their age or background - you might be surprised by what you can achieve!"

School choir serenade bank customers

CUSTOMERS at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Burscough received an unexpected 'bonus' during the festive season when they were treated to a rendition of popular carols by local youngsters.

Staff at the branch in Liverpool Road North invited 40 pupils from Burscough Vilage Primary School along to perform for customers to showcase their talent and enable the branch to engage with the community in a novel way.

Branch manager, Nicola Stinson, said: "The choir sang about a dozen songs, including one which the Year 6 pupils had created themselves and it was fantastic to hear exactly what they think of Christmas, which was so positive.

"The children were so well-mannered and happy which was lovely to see.

"We also provided refreshments for our customers and we received such positive feedback from them about the event."

Burscough Village Primary School pupils carol singing at their local Royal Bank of Scotland branch.

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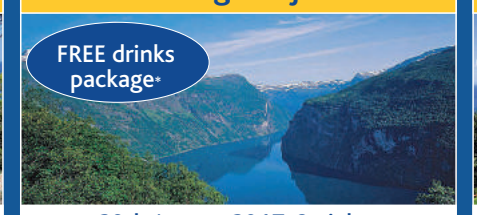

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Transatlantic theme to history group's talk

THE next meeting of the Ormskirk Historical Society on Saturday, January 21 will feature an illustrated talk by Charlie Witham on Anglo-American relations and how they have developed since the end of the Second World War.

Running from 7.30 to 9pm at the Four Lane Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe, the talk will cover the history and changes in this relationship, especially relevant in view of recent developments..

Annual membership of the society costs £16 but visitors are welcome to attend the talk for a £3 donation.

Community centre chief joins social entrepreneurs scheme

Report by **Henry James**

AN entrepreneur from Ormskirk has joined the 2016/2017 cohort of the Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneurs programme, in partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE).

Jeane Lowe, 60, joined the fifth year of the Scale Up North West programme with her social enterprise Centre 63, where she is the chief executive officer.

Centre 63 is a Church Of England Youth and Community Centre which has been working in and serving Kirkby and the wider Knowsley area for more than 50 years aiming to deliver high-quality informal and community education within a Christian ethos.

The year-long Scale up North West programme supports entrepreneurs developing their own social businesses through the provision of financial support and comprehensive learning support including a business mentoring scheme.

Jeane Lowe

Entrepreneurs each receive start-up grants of £4,000 or scale-up grants of £15,000 from the Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneurs Programme. Together with the action learning programme delivered in partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs, and support from their Lloyds Banking Group mentor, enables them to take their social enterprises to the next level and plan for the future.

More than 1,000 social entrepreneurs have been supported by the programme since its launch in 2012. This year more than 300 entrepreneurs joined with diverse projects tackling issues such as the environment, education, gender and mental health.

Paula Rogers, head of the Social Entrepreneurs Programme at Lloyds, said: "We are proud to welcome this year's cohort of social entrepreneurs to the programme, in partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs.

"I look forward to witnessing their businesses develop throughout the year and seeing the positive impact these social entrepreneurs will contribute to their communities, a key part of our commitment to helping Britain prosper."

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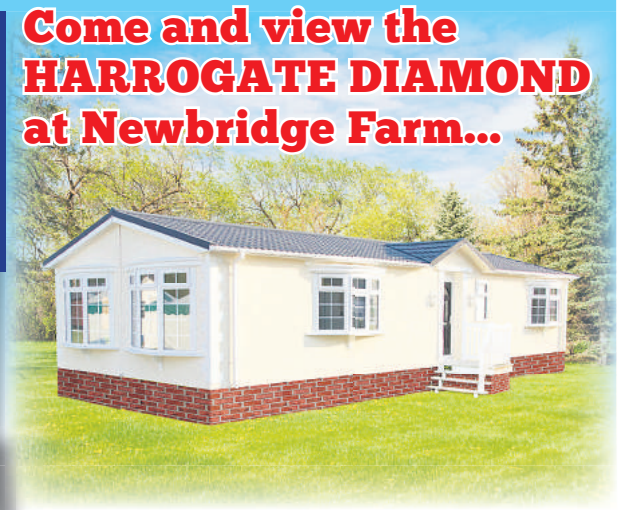

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A helping hand with those post-Christmas money worries

STAFF at Citizens Advice Lancashire West are gearing up to offer free, confidential and impartial advice to anyone in the borough who has New Year debt worries.

More than 370,000 people across the UK are expected to turn to the organisation with post-Christmas money worries this month alone.

Figures from last year show that January and February were the busiest months for queries about finances, with someone viewing online advice pages every three seconds in January.

While January is often associated with squeezed budgets and debt worries, the research reveals that people also used the New Year to take stock of their money situation and plan their finances.

Lisa Bolton, senior services manager with the team of debt experts at Citizens Advice Lancashire West, said: "December and January is a particularly busy time of year for our debt team as we often find clients are focusing on achieving a fresh start for the new year."

People with debts are most likely to seek advice on council tax arrears, credit card debts and debt relief orders, while others ask about personal pensions, bank accounts and credit referencing.

With thousands of people seeking money advice every day, Citizens Advice is sharing eight simple steps people can take to review their finances and start planning for the future.

1. Do a simple budget. Write down your income and take away your essential bills such as gas and electric, food and transport. If you have money left over, plan in advance what else you'll spend or save. If you don't, look at ways to cut your costs. Use our online tool to set a more detailed budget.

2. Save money on essentials. You could save an average of £300 on your energy bill by changing tariffs or suppliers. Use Citizens Advice's energy comparison tool to see if you can save. Note the dates of annual contracts that are up for renewal, like your mobile phone or car insurance, and use a comparison site to see if you can get a cheaper deal.

3. Check you're claiming the right benefits. If you have a family or are married, check if you can apply for working tax credits or marriage tax allowance on gov.co.uk. If you live alone, you may be entitled to a discount on your council tax bill. If you claim benefits, visit the Citizens Advice website to check if you are eligible for discounts on your water or energy bills.

Lisa Bolton

4. Start saving.

5. Keep tabs on your overdraft.

6. Be choosey about your borrowing.

7. Get your debts in order. If you can't pay all your debts at once, it's important to prioritise. Rent or mortgage and council tax are more important than credit card debts for example, as the consequences can be more serious if you don't pay. Find out how to prioritise on the Citizens Advice website or contact your nearest service for help.

8. Invest in your future.

Citizens Advice Lancashire West operates with around 30 paid staff and 150 volunteers. The range of services can be accessed from one phone number, 0344 245 1294 or simply by dropping in to any of the bureaux.

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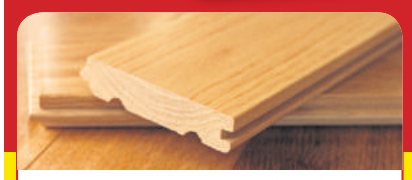

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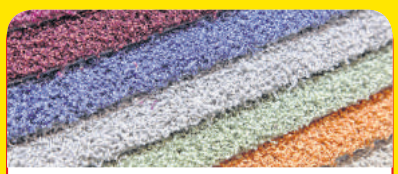

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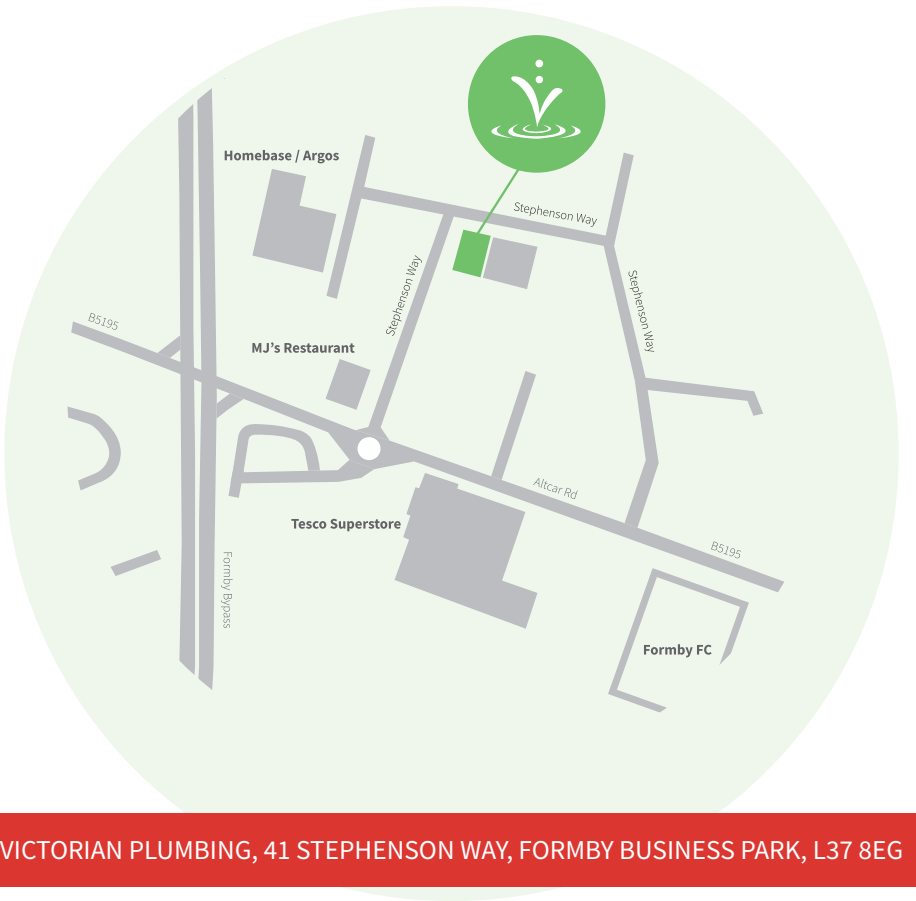

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Online events on way for those thinking of a career in teaching

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

WEST Lancs residents considering a career in teaching can watch five online events throughout January which will show what the profession can offer and how to get into it, as well as exploring the financial support packages on offer for those making the change from established careers.

Figures released by Google Trends data and PULSAR social listening statistics for last year showed that last January was the busiest month of the year for residents across the UK searching for new careers and updating their CVs.

To support the latest generation of new year career changers, the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL), an executive agency that provides a comprehensive programme of support to aspiring teachers, is running the sessions.

Roger Pope, chairperson of the NCTL

Opportunity to inspire

The online events will all run from 6.30 to 8pm and the first one, *Funding Your Teacher Training*, is being run tonight (Wednesday, January 11).

Managing A Career Change Into Teaching: Shared Experiences is being run on Tuesday, January 17; *Gaining School Experience As A Career Changer* is on Thursday, January 19; *Professional Skills Tests* is on Monday, January, 23 and *Support With Your Application* is on Wednesday, January 25.

Roger Pope, chairperson of the NCTL said: "If people are not feeling fulfilled in their current role, they may wish to shake off the January blues by considering teaching and taking their skills and experience into the classroom.

"Teaching is a fantastic career as it gives you the opportunity to inspire young people to fulfil their potential.

"It is also a career that offers great opportunities for progression, so you could make a real difference this year to both your future as well as theirs."

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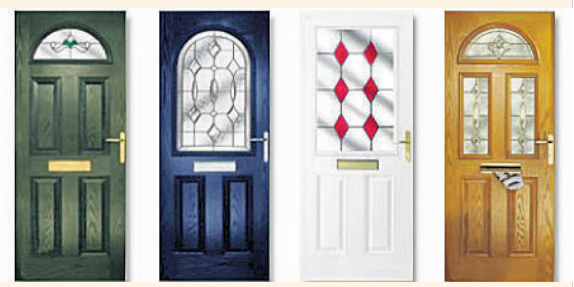

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Martin Mere news

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is looking for local groups of artists, photographers or painters to exhibit at the centre over the 2017/18 period.

This year groups such as the Southport Palette Club and the Maghull Art Club will be exhibiting in the centre's exhibition hall giving our visitors something new to take a look at indoors over the winter months. Centre Manager, Nick Brooks, said: "We do like to work with local groups at the centre – I think our visitors really enjoy looking at the variety of work we put on display and we can offer them a unique opportunity to promote the work that they do – and they may even get some sales. We are always keen to hear from groups that may want to use our facilities." If your group is interested in exhibiting please email info.martinmere@wwt.org.uk

In other news at the centre, due to popular demand the Celebrity Dusty Duck trail will stay at Martin Mere for an additional 3 weekends until the end of January before it is moved to WWT Arundel. You may also have seen Martin Mere on the news quite a lot recently; just after Christmas our Reserve Manager Tom Clare was in the BBC Breakfast studios, sat on the couch talking about bird migration and the effect that climate change is having on it – and just last week Granada Reports came out and did a feature about the swans, interviewing Tom Clare, Nick Brooks and our visitors. Nick continues: "Being on TV gives the centre a huge boost – we have an immediate increase in the number of people visiting us and most of our staff and volunteers comment on it. Granada Reports has been great in spreading the word about our Whooper swans and why they migrate here and it allows us to communicate with thousands and thousands of people."

In bird news at the centre, the reserve has had sightings of a Red-crested pochard from the Harrier Hide (probably first winter male) and a Blue phase snow goose has been seen travelling between Martin Mere and other local reserves.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 4.30pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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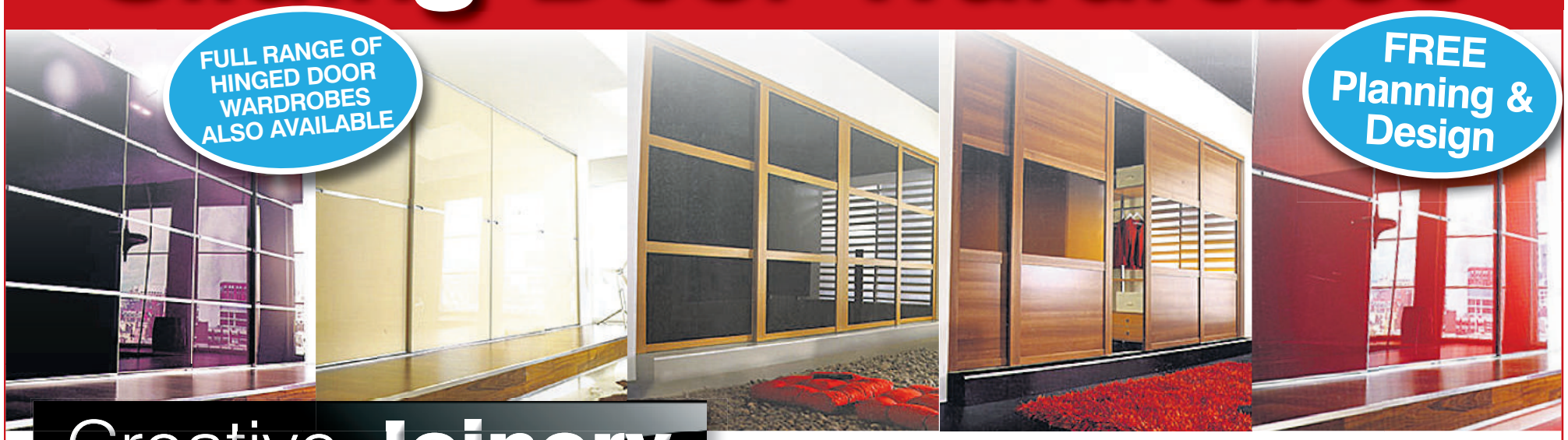

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International jazz stars appearing in concert

SCARISBRICK Hall School will be hosting a world-class concert given by international jazz stars Dennis Rollins (trombone) and Alan Barnes (Saxophones/clarinet) on Saturday, January 21.

These two heavy-weights of jazz will be backed by the North West based Swingshift Big Band, directed by Phil Shotton, musician in residence at Scarisbrick Hall School.

Students from the school and the surrounding areas will be taking part in a jazz masterclass workshop during the day, led by Dennis and Alan.

The student's work will be showcased during the first half of the concert, followed by Swingshift and the guest artists. The concert will end with all musicians taking part for a roof raising grand finale!

Also performing on the night are the Liverpool Jazz Flute Big Band, direct from their recent performance at the London Jazz Festival and only the second ensemble of its type in the world.

The Jazz Flute Big Band is directed by Phil Shotton and features James Bullock and Sarah Gloyne from the school's Performing Arts faculty staff within the ensemble.

Dennis Rollins

The jazz masterclass and concert have been developed as part of the Schools International Centre for Wind Ensemble Education programme. For more information, visit www.icwe.org.uk

The concert will take place at 7pm in Scarisbrick Hall School's theatre, Scarisbrick Hall School, Southport Road, Scarisbrick, L40 9RQ.

Tickets are available online at www.scarisbrickhall-school.info/tickets

Show aiming to excite taste buds of Wharf audiences

FEED your mind and excite your taste buds at The Chef Show coming to The Arts Centre, Burscough Wharf this January.

Part play, park cookery demonstration, The Chef Show takes its audience behind the scenes on a busy Saturday night in the local curry house.

Two actors play a cast of thousands in heroic and comic tales inspired by interviews with real people in the trade.

At The Arts Centre this Sunday, (January 15) at 7.30pm, they will be joined by a chef from The Curry Leaf in Burscough, providing tips on how to create a spicy offering of your own.

The performance includes a chance to taste the food and share conversation with the chef and the cast.

The Chef Show is produced by Ragged Edge, a new theatre company founded by Stefan Escreet who directs it.

Stefan was inspired to produce The Chef Show by a cookery demonstration at a village hall in Cumbria where he lives. It reflects on the many villages and market towns where there are 'Indian' restaurants with staff who rarely have any social contact with other members of the community apart from serving them food.

The Chef Show is coming to Burscough

The show has been written by Nick Ahad, who has written for Emmerdale and now has his own show on BBC Radio Leeds. Nick grew up in an Anglo-Bangladeshi family that ran a restaurant.

The Chef Show is recommended for anyone aged ten plus.

For more information and to book contact Sandy or Tony on 01704 896590 or email sandy@domino-partnerships.co.uk

Touring production of Evita coming to Empire

FOLLOWING its hit run at London's Dominion Theatre, Bill Kenwright's production of the musical, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Evita, is set to entertain audiences once again across the UK, opening at the Liverpool Empire Theatre on Tuesday, January 24.

Taking on the iconic role of Eva Perón will be an actress described as "one of musical theatre's most exciting leading ladies today", Emma Hatton.

She has recently finished a stint as the lead role of Elphaba in the West End's production of Wicked. Prior to this she performed the principle roles of Scaramouche and Meatloaf in We Will Rock You at the Dominion Theatre, and Donna in the West End production of Dreamboats and Petticoats.

In addition to her success in musical theatre, Emma continues to perform regularly as a jazz and blues singer to much critical acclaim, with previous residencies and appearances including The Savoy Hotel, and Ronnie Scott's.

Making his UK debut is Italian performer Gian Marco Schiaretti who will be taking on the role of Che, a character who reflects the voice of the Argentine people - linked to Eva by destiny; he brings conflict to the story of Eva's rise to fame. Gian Marco Schiaretti most recently played the title role of Tarzan in Disney's Musical Tarzan, in Stuttgart. Prior to this he played Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet across Italy.

Joining them will be Kevin Stephen-Jones, set to play Argentine President Juan Perón. He has performed extensively across the UK and Europe in over 20 different operas. His musical theatre credits include Cats, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and Love Beyond.

Telling the story of Eva Perón, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Perón, Evita follows Eva's journey from humble beginnings through to extraordinary wealth, power and iconic status which ultimately lead her to be heralded as the 'spiritual leader of the nation' by the Argentine people.

With more than 20 major awards to its credit, and an Oscar winning film version starring Madonna and Antonio Banderas, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Evita is iconic. Featuring some of the best loved songs in musical theatre, including: Don't Cry for Me Argentina, On This Night of a Thousand Stars, You Must Love Me, and Another Suitcase in Another Hall.

A scene from the touring production of Evita

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HOUSE AND HOME

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FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA wanted programmes tickets shirts pin badges etc cash paid 01515319425/07773242918

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HOUSE AND HOME

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PICTURE & MIRROR M&S oriental picture and a pine framed mirror 19.5 x 14 inches, Aintree. £10 07434841029

BEDROOM SUITE White suite with grey trim, comprising of two large wardrobes, 35" wide by 82" high one with top shelf other with double hanging space, and a three drawer chest 31" wide by 28" high. Also a five drawer chest 31" by 43" high, all in good condition, Aintree £695 07434841029

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HOUSE AND HOME

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MISC

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MISC

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TOYS AND GAMES

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The job role will involve working to standard operating procedures in line with health & safety to operate our plastic vacuum forming machines, producing our bespoke products to production targets and quality standards.

We are looking for a forward thinking proactive/reactive individual who has excellent machining experience within a manufacturing environment.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:
• Work in a busy manufacturing / Factory environment
• Operating machinery, such as vacuum forming machines
• Have very good attention to detail and quality assurance
• Enthusiastic and self-motivated
• Punctual strong time keeper and good attendance
• Be able to receive and understand verbal and written instruction

HOURS:
Monday-Friday 6am to 2:30pm and 8am to 4:30pm rotated weekly. (Occasional weekend work maybe required)

If you are interested in applying for the role, then please send an application (CV) to
Paul.Witter@nutriculture.co.uk

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ian.sheppard@hurlstonhall.co.uk

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Home Instead are seeking individuals, who are genuinely caring and interested in making a real difference to someone else's life.

Main responsibilities of the role comprise of: assisting clients with all aspects of personal care, including washing, bathing and dressing. General domestic duties, administering medication, meal preparation and assisting clients to access the local community.

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Announcements

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MARGARET VICKERS

The family of the late Margaret Vickers would like to thank all family, friends, former pupils, colleagues and carers for their overwhelming support during this sad time and for the many tributes and donations in memory of Margaret. Thank you also: to Father Tom and all at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton for their support; to Claire and Dave of Newland and Wilkinson Funeral Directors for their professional and caring service; to the Dunscar Catering team for the excellent refreshments and to all at Mere Brow Village hall for looking after us so well.

GOUGH JOAN MARGARET

The family would like to thank all relatives, friends, and neighbours for all the many messages of condolence, sympathy cards, and donations received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Wife, Mum and Gran. Grateful thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals, and Springfield Court Nursing Home, Aughton for all their kindness and care.
Special thanks to Father Godric for his prayers and kind ministrations and Sally Hunter and staff at MLS Funeral Directors for their dignified Funeral arrangements.

PENNINGTON HANNELORE

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for the messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations for Woodlands Hospice received during their recent sad loss.
Thanks also to Father Kelly for his kind ministrations and to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, for their dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PONSONBY DAVID STEPHEN

31/03/1938 - 03/12/2016

We, the family of David should like to express our thanks, for the many sympathy cards, condolences and generous contributions to Alzheimers Research UK which we have received at this difficult time.

Also our thanks to Reverend Ian Jones for his help and guidance and to the staff of Cookson Tyrer funeral directors for their professional and dignified services

Barbara Ponsonby and family.

CAVENDISH FREDERICK

Brenda & family would like to thank relatives friends & neighbours for their help and support, sympathy cards and donations received for Dementia UK during their recent sad loss. Thanks to Doctors and Staff at Aughton Surgery and Ark Carers Agency.

IN MEMORIAM

KAY ALBERT

4th January 2010

A special Anniversary message sent with love, to simply say that this year you are missed every day, For when its only memories and photographs we've got of our loved one that is now departed and who meant an awful lot to us, its always hard to celebrate and not feel really sad, when thinking of all the happy times we once had. You will always be lovingly remembered as someone very special and the best by far.You were a loving husband, Dad and Pops. We miss you. Wife Margaret, Daughters Shirley and Sandra, Son-in-Laws Simon and Gregg and Grandchildren James, Ellie, Clara and Lydia
xx

DEATHS

MCCAIN JASON

5th January 2017

You aren't just our Dad, you're our best friend and biggest fan, our go to person for advice or when we need a laugh. You gave us everything and more and so many incredible memories. This isn't goodbye because we will carry you with us every single day in our hearts and on our sleeves, you will watch over us and keep us safe and we will always make you proud.
All our love Dad
Soph and Sash
XX

MCCAIN JASON

5th January 2017

You closed your beautiful brown eyes and left me Jay. My heart has been halved in two, half is full of memories and the other half left with you. Put your arms around him Ian and treasure him with care, make up for all that he suffered and all that was unfair.
I will always love you my precious son.
Love Mum
X

MAINEY MICHAEL

8th January 2017

Will be dearly missed by his loving Wife Margaret and children Mark, Karl & Lynne. His Grandchildren and extended family Rebecca, Madison, Devyn, Luke, Amy, Amanda, Hamish, Jonty, Fergus, Derick and Winnie will also miss his wonderful fun and sense of humour.
The Funeral will be held at West Lancashire Crematorium. Donations will be appreciated to dementia society www.dementiauk.org
For funeral arrangements and further enquiries please contact Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton
Tele: 01695 424888

DEATHS

MCCAIN JASON

5th January 2017

An amazing Dad to our Daughters and a special friend.
You will always be in our hearts and in our thoughts.
Love always Marie

MCCAIN JASON

5th January 2017

With deepest sympathy to Margaret and family. Out of a world of suffering into a heaven of rest, God's garden must be beautiful, he only takes the best.
God Bless Jason.
R.I.P.
Lots of Love Marion, Billy & family.
x

BROWN BARBARA

5th January 2017

Passed away peacefully at Beaconview Care Home

Barbara will be sorely missed by her brother George, sister in law Patricia and all family. Funeral will be held on Wednesday 18th January at 2pm at Burscough Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations to Children Alone are being gratefully received.

EVANS MARGARET

Aged 76. Peacefully in hospital on 4th January

Dearly Beloved Wife of Jim, Loving Mother of Cath and Chris & Sister of Bren.
Funeral service on Monday 16th at St Michael's, Aughton at 12:45. Followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium.
No flowers please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK

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DEATHS

BYRON DAVE

Suddenly but peacefully at home on the 29th December 2016 aged 70 years

Dearly beloved Husband of Joan. Much loved Dad of Clare, Paula and Stuart. Dear Father in Law of Mike and Mark. Loving Grandad of Katie. Dear Brother of Phil and Brother in Law of Jan. Dave will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 13th January 2017 at 10.45am. No flowers by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for a charity of your own choice in memory of Dave.
Further enquiries to
The Co-Op Funeralcare, 36 Westway, Maghull L31 0AB
Tel: 0151 527 1709

SUTCLIFFE JOHN

On Monday 2nd January 2017 Aged 67 years

Much loved Husband of Chris, loving Father of Jonathan, Father in law of Geraldine, dear Grandpa of Emily, George, Daisy and Jonny. Memorial Service to be held at St John's Parish Church, Birkdale, St John's Road, Birkdale, PR8 4JP on Thursday 12th January at 3.00 pm. Donations are being gratefully received in memory of John for Homebaked and SAFE Regeneration Ltd (please make cheques payable to Howard's Donation Account). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors,
1 -5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

GRAYSON EDWARD ARTHUR (EDDIE)

29th December 2016 Aged 81 Years

Peacefully in Royal Liverpool Hospital after a sudden illness

Loving husband of the late Joyce, devoted dad to Adrian and Tina, and cherished Grandad to Jamie and Louise. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Interment at Inghamite Church, Wheatley Lane, Wheatley Carr, Nr. Burnley on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 12noon. Flowers or donations if so desired for Diabetes UK. Flowers, donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road, North, Burscough. L40 5TP. Tele 01704 891555.

MOULTON PATRICIA

24th December 2016 Aged 71 years

From loving Husband Ken. Forever in our hearts, thoughts and remembered for her love and loyalty.
XXXXX
Gone but not forgotten. Funeral service at West-Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 11.30am. Family flowers only please but donations to Cumbrian Air Ambulance. For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997.

HODSON RAYMOND JOHN

Good night, God bless
To a wonderful Dad

Who has shown so much strength and courage to all his Family, Children and Grandchildren.
So much of your strength flows through them all, such wonderful memories created.

Until we meet again (Inshallah)
Love your broken hearted Daughter Po, Grandchildren Anthony, Daniel, Katie, Chloe, Great Grandchildren Keegan and Tayla-Rae, and loving Son-in-law Tony.
xxxxxxxx

HODSON RAYMOND

01/01/2017

TOP DAD

Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes, because for those who love with their heart and soul, there is no such thing as separation (Jalaluddin Rumi)

So Dad, you will always be in our hearts.
Love Justine, Clint, Sam and Jess xxxxx

COMFORT PETER

On 30th December 2016 Aged 72 years

Devoted and much loved Husband of Elspeth, dear Brother of Margaret, Brother in Law of David, Jenty and Duncan, loved Uncle of Shona, Lois and Joanna. Peter will be very greatly missed by all his family and friends.
A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Woodvale Chapel on Thursday 12th January at 10:30am followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations are being gratefully received for Jospice, Thornton (please make cheques payable to St Joseph's Hospice). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors,
82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3AW.
Telephone: 01704 577786.

MILLS CAROLE ANN

27th December 2016 after a long illness, peacefully at home, aged 70 years.

Much loved Mum of Janine, Liesl and Christopher. Devoted and loving Nana of Cassie. Loving Sister of Tom and Steve. Carole will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service to take place at St Anne's RC Church Ormskirk on Thursday 12 January 2017 at 10am, followed by interment at Allerton Cemetery at 11.30am. Family flowers only by request please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family on behalf of Claire House Children's Hospice or Cancer Research UK. Further enquiries to Cookson Tyrer Funeralcare, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU.
Tel 01704 897770.

CASSIDY BARBARA CAROLE

Of Roby Mill, passed away on 4th January 2017 Aged 70 years

Much loved mum of Adele, Dawn and Gail. Loving Mother-in-Law to Kenny. Loving Nana to Sam, Jenson, Adam, Libby, Sophie and Ben. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will be held at the Church of St Thomas the Martyr, UpHolland at 10.30 am on Wednesday 18th January 2017 followed by a reception at Holland Hall Hotel. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to UpHolland and Tawd Vale Lions.
Further enquires please to R Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd. Stretton House, 23 Hall Green, Upholland,Wigan.
Tel (01695) 622099.

TINSLEY JOSEPH CROSBY

6th January 2017 Aged 81 years, peacefully in Southport Hospital

The dearly loved Husband of Sue, much loved Dad of Della and Stephen, and Brother to Joan, dear Father-in-law to Gideon and Kate, Brother in law to Colin and devoted Grandad to Lola, Dexter and James. Joe will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough - Thursday 19th January at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please by request donations to Southport Dialysis Unit and Kidney Research UK. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors.
Tel: 01695 572997.

HODSON RAYMOND JOHN

Passed away 1st January 2017 Aged 82 Years

Died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving children. Reunited with Joanie, his loving Wife. Family flowers only, donations if desired on the day to a fund of our Father's choosing. Funeral service to be arranged. For enquiries contact Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Skelmersdale.
Tel: 01695 559868

BERKLEY JAMES (JIM)

On 23 December 2016 in hospital and of Up-Holland Aged 88 years.

Beloved Husband of Sylvia, much loved Dad of David and Angela, father-in-law of Eileen and a devoted Grandad of Daniel, Stuart, Neil, Michael, Martin and Matthew. Also a dearly loved Great Grandad and a dear Brother of Jean and John. Funeral Service will take place on Friday 20th January 2017 at Dalton Parish Church at 1.00pm, followed by interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Dalton Parish Church c/o and all enquiries to W. Banks, Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, Orrell.
Tel: 01695 622272.

STARKIE HARRY

On 30th December 2016 Peacefully in hospital Aged 85 years.

Loving Husband of Annie, devoted Dad of Catherine, Jaqueline and Diane. Dear Father in Law of John and Tony, cherished Grandad and Great Grandad of all his Grandchildren.
Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 12th January at 11.30am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation.
All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel: 01695 559868.

FOSTER EDNA

Passed away peacefully on 7th January 2017 at St Joseph's Hospice Aged 88 years

Survived by sister Jean Warren. Edna will be sadly missed by Dave, Lin and family. Funeral service and committal will take place on Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 10am at West Lancashire Crematorium.
Family flowers only please, donations in aid of St Joseph's Hospice would be gratefully received in memory of Edna. Further enquiries to: Craven Funeral Directors, 16 Derby Street West, Ormskirk L39 3NH.
Tel: 01695 577200.

DURKIN CHRISTOPHER JOHN (CHRIS)

Passed away 5th January 2017 peacefully at home Aged 70 years of Ormskirk

Dearly loved Husband of the late Kath, loving Dad of Jayne and Andrea, dear Father-in-law of Stephen and devoted Grandad of Victoria and Emily. For Funeral arrangements and further enquiries please contact Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk.
Tele: 01695 424888.

WILLIAMS DAVID PRITCHARD

7th January 2017 Passed away suddenly but peacefully in hospital Aged 78 years of Ormskirk, formerly of Maghull

Much loved Dad of Dave and Mark. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 16th January at 11.30am.
Family flowers only by request but donations if so desired for Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.
Tel: 01695 424888.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHEQUER LANE, UP HOLLAND, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Chequer Lane, Up Holland from a point outside property number 54 to a point, outside property number 35 in the Borough of Chorley.

2. The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on Monday 16th January 2017 until 1700 hours on Friday 17th February 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Chequer Lane – Ormskirk Road – A577 Ormskirk Road – Tower Hill Road – Pimbo Lane – Chequer Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow new sewer connection works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/17/08/5978/arh]

www.lancashire.gov.uk — Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(MARTIN LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle, or cyclist to proceed over that length of Martin Lane, Burscough for a distance of 10 metres either side of the Martin Lane Level Crossing in the borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 2300 hours on Saturday 21st January 2017 until 0600 hours on Friday 27th January 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. No alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is available.
Access for emergency services will be maintained for the duration of the closure. The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential level crossing works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT17/08/6070/ARH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk — Lancashire County Council

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2016/1213/FUL Erection of a detached house after demolition of storage building at Land To The Rear Of, 55 Boundary Lane, Hesketh Bank.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/1268/FUL Internal reconstruction to form 12 bedrooms with 2 lounges and kitchens to supersede previous planning permission (ref: 2015/0900/FUL) at Albert Douglas House, 26 Aughton Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/1280/FUL Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new sunroom to rear of farmhouse. Change of kitchen window to door opening. Re-opening of blocked-in windows to rear elevation/lounge. Refurbishment of existing outbuilding and construction of new glazed extension and pool room to rear. Addition of solar thermal panels to outbuilding roof rear aspect at Owens Farm, Broad Lane, Downholland.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2016/1281/LBC Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new sunroom to rear of farmhouse. Change of kitchen window to door opening. Re-opening of blocked-in windows to rear elevation/lounge. Refurbishment of existing outbuilding and construction of new glazed extension and pool room to rear. Addition of solar thermal panels to outbuilding roof rear aspect at Owens Farm, Broad Lane, Downholland.
Application No: 2016/1288/FUL 2 Storey rear extension, new canopy over front door, Removal of existing porch, existing conservatory and existing detached garage at 68 Chorley Road, Hilldale.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 11th January 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT930

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4 BEDROOM HOUSE
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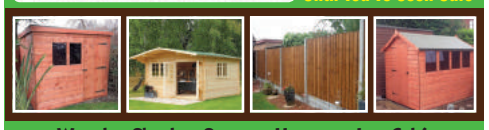

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Vital motorway skills training long overdue

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A YEAR or so ago I ticked off another entry on the petrolhead bucket list; I maxed a car on a limit-free stretch of German autobahn.

Two things stick out from that afternoon somewhere near Stuttgart. The first is that as it was a Skoda Fabia Estate with four hefty Brits and their luggage aboard, the point at which it physically wouldn't go any faster wasn't actually all that quick. Secondly – and more importantly – the discipline of other drivers meant it felt far safer had I attempted to do the illegal thing and pull off the same trick on the autobahn's British equivalent.

I've long moaned about what motorway driving's all too often about. Impatient sales reps in Audi A4s driving inches off your back bumper. Lorry drivers sauntering through 50mph average speed zones at whatever speed their Scania feels happiest. People who cut across all three lanes sans indicator to make their turnoff at the last possible moment. Oh, and the chap in the battered Peugeot 206 who was so incensed by another driver he decided to *stop* in the middle lane of the M6 before lowering his window and flicking another motorist the finger.

Motorways are the fastest roads in the UK yet – in my experience at least – home to the worst driving. So plans to let up 'n' coming motorists learn how to use them are well overdue. It defies logic that when I passed my test a couple of years ago I was able to jump into my 998cc Mini Mayfair – a car barely capable of the motorway speed limit – and drive down the M57 on a shopping trip to Warrington. Yet while the current theory test does touch on motorway driving, it seems silly not to go over it in the practical tests at all. Obviously this does pose one big problem – although not one that'll affect you in the North West, where lots of motorways criss-cross the M6 as it snakes its way up the country.

If you live in Norfolk, Cornwall, or the far-away bits of Scotland and Wales, there are no motorways.

Perhaps we could either set up a scheme that allows learners to travel over and spend a day learning these roads, because it is important that the next generation of drivers knows that there is no such a thing as a slow lane on motorways and that those chevrons painted onto the roads on the busier bits haven't been put there for fun. It also seems a bit bonkers that you need no practice whatsoever before being allowed to slot a family hatchback into a 70mph torrent of busy traffic.

The fact is the speed I cracked in a borrowed Skoda in a foreign country felt safer than the M62 does most nights. Making people learn the ropes is long overdue.

A Skoda Fabia Estate similar to the one David used on the German autobahns

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Big discounts available on main models

VAUXHALL is slapping big discounts onto some of its biggest selling models during a discount incentive over the New Year period. The manufacturer says that 'tags' will be attached to selected models in its showrooms, with up to 22% off the price of its new cars. Go to www.vauxhall.co.uk/bonustagevent to find out more about the incentive, which runs until January 16.

The Corsa is one of the models included in the Vauxhall discounts over the New Year period

Classic car show dates announced

DATES for three of the North West's biggest classic car shows have been announced.
The Classic and Performance Car Spectacular takes place on June 3-4, the Stars and Stripes event for American vehicles will be held on July 1-2 and the Passion for Power Classic Motor Show is schedule for August 19-20. All three are held at Tatton Park in Cheshire. Go to www.cheshireautopromotions.co.uk if you're thinking of showing off your classic car.

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54 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 DIESEL EXCLUSIVE, blue metallic, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, ABS, alloys.....£1,395
51 BMW 530SE DIESEL ESTATE, orient blue, auto, PAS, e/w, c/locking, A/C, alloys, service history, sat nav £2,295

06 PORSCHE CAYMAN S 3.4 6spd, guards red, leather trim, PAS, E/W, r/c/l, sat nav, A/C, ABS, cruise, s/history, 56,000 miles, lady owned, stunning £15,995
58 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE BIANCO, white, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, alloys, pan roof, 40,000 miles, service history £4,695
03 MERCEDES SLK 200K AUTO CONVERTIBLE, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, alloys, full history, superb throughout £4,495
07 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 5DR 1.2, 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, CD, service history, 60,000 miles.....£2,995
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R BMW 525 TDI DIESEL ESTATE, met silver, leather, PAS, E/W, ...£995
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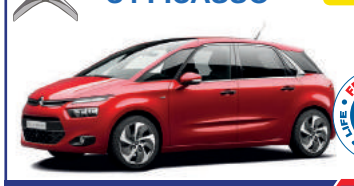

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• Alloys
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12 Ford Mondeo TDCi Zetec 5 Dr

• FSH
• 1 Owner
• Alloys
• Air Con

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• Air Con
• CD Player

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• CD Player

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13 Peugeot Partner 1.6 Diesel Tepee Outdoor

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62 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Sri 5 Dr

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• Alloys

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63 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Zetec Estate

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• Alloys
• Air Con

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63 Ford C Max 1.6 TDCi Zetec

• 1 Owner
• 47000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys

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14 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Sri Auto 5 Dr

• 18000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

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60 Bmw 318 Diesel M Sport 4 Dr

• M Sport
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

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63 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Zetec S 5 Dr

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• Sports B Kit
• Upgraded Alloys

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12 Volvo S60 1.6 Diesel R Design

• 57000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

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• FSH
• New Alloys
• Priv Glass

New In NO DEPOSIT

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62 Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Titanium

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• Priv Glass
• CD Player
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13 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Cdti 6 Speed

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61 Vw Scirocco 2.0 Tdi Gt Bmotion Tech

• FSH
• Alloys
• CD Player

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61 Kia Sportage 2.0 CRDi KX2

• 55000 Miles
• 1 Owner
• 1/2 Leather
• Alloys

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12 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Tech 4 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Leather
• Sat Nav

Was £12,495 NO DEPOSIT

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12 Ford Galaxy 2.0 Tdci Zetec

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

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63 Volvo V40 1.6 Diesel R Design 5 Dr

• 57000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• CD Player

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60 Jaguar Xf 3.0 Diesel Luxury Auto

• FSH
• 65000 Miles
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• Leather

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Only £12,995

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13 Mercedes C220 Cdi Sport 4 Dr

• 53000 Miles
• FSH
• AMG
• 1/2 leather

New In NO DEPOSIT

Only £14,995

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15 Mini 2.0 Diesel Countryman 5 Dr

• Automatic
• 5000 Miles
• 1 Owner
• Alloys

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09 Bmw X5 3.0 D M Sport Auto

• 51000 Miles
• Sat Nav
• Privacy Glass
• Media Pack

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10 Range Rover Sport 3.0 Td V6 HSE

• FSH
• 20" Alloys
• Side Steps
• Leather

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Customer Deposit	£292
Amount of Credit	£9,622.95
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Optional Final Payment	£3,895
Interest Charges	£993.05
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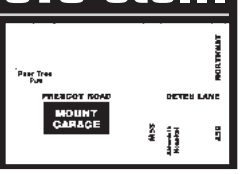

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Bumper crowd expected for league encounter with FA Cup heroes Stourbridge

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE welcome cup heroes Stourbridge on Saturday.

And just to make it an FA Cup double, Skem take on another team of renowned cup fighters when Blyth Spartans travel down from the north-east for a league game on Tuesday, January 17.

Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Manchester City are all without a league game on Saturday, so Skelmersdale United are opening the doors to supporters of the big four or anyone else for that matter.

If you bring along your season ticket for another club and show it at the turnstile you can watch Skem take on either Stourbridge or Blyth Spartans for just a £5.

Both Stourbridge and Blyth are well in the melting pot for a promotion spot, so not many will give Skem a chance either, so it would be a great day to beat the odds.

It isn't impossible though, as Stourbridge are not the quickest team in the league at the back and one thing the new Skem forward line is is quick as they have demonstrated in their last two games.

Skelmersdale still have 13 home games to play and there are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available.

The club are also looking to appoint a commercial manager.

So if you are good at fundraising or fancy a corporate day out at Skelmersdale United's Uretek Stadium, please contact 01695 575958.

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Skem denied a point by late goal after Watts sent off in first minute

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Frickley Athletic 3
Skelmersdale United 2

SKELMERSDALE were reduced to ten men after only eight seconds but still nearly escaped with a point until conceding a late winner deep into injury time.

After Jack Watts was sent off for a late tackle moments after kick off, Frickley scored two second half goals to seemingly put the game out of Skem's reach.

However, the youthful side fought back and 17-year-old striker Harry Blackburn scored two late goals to level the score at 2-2 on 88 minutes.

Frickley then went and got a winner in the third minute of added time after a corner fell to Joe Pugh who hammered home from close range.

The game started off in the worst possible way for manager Tommy Lawson.

From the kick-off the ball went down the right to Jack Watts, who took a poor touch and the ball ran to Frickley's Jack Waters.

Watts dived in to challenge and the referee deemed it worthy of a red card.

Skelmersdale were forced to sit back but managed to keep Frickley at bay and had their fair share of possession.

In the 11th minute debutant goalkeeper Chris Cheetham made a good near-post save from Frickley's Luke Mangham, but seven minutes later at the other end Phil Mooney headed wide from a Luke Moran free-kick.

Harry Blackburn hits the Skelmersdale equaliser. Picture by John Driscoll.

The game levelled out again for a while but livened up in the five minutes before the break and Frickley's impressive Gary Stohrer,had two good efforts on goal but couldn't find the net.

Frickley grabbed the lead on 62 minutes and it was a bit of route one and an inspired run that brought it about.

Malkowski punted the ball long, it was headed on and Stohrer ran onto the ball and lifted it into the Skem net.

Eight minutes later a free-kick wasn't cleared properly and Mangham finished it off from close range to make it 2-0.

In the 85th minute Dean Shacklock carried the ball forward and laid into the path of Blackburn and the Accrington loanee beat a defender on the edge of the Frickley penalty area and then cut the ball back into the net.

A little over a minute later Skem won a free-kick which fell to Blackburn, who saw his shot saved by Malkowski but finished off the re-bound to make it 2-2.

Frickley were shocked but Skelmersdale had fought their way back and deserved it.

But deep into injury time and Joe Pugh, who is on loan from Doncaster, smashed the ball into the net from close range.

Skelmersdale are at home to Stourbridge on Saturday.

Linnets stun high flyers to claim rare home win

Burscough 1
Scarborough 0

BURSCOUGH produced an inspired display to come away unlikely winners against high-flying Scarborough.

It was the first league victory at home for the Linnets since early November and fans will be hoping the new year brings new fortunes for the team, who remain eight points adrift at the bottom of the table despite the win.

It was a high tempo game to start as both teams looked to impress and got on the front foot.

Within the first two minutes Burscough had taken lead.

Hard work and a high pressing midfield earned the hosts a free-kick 30 yards out towards the right flank.

The ball was whipped in and missed by several players as it bounced awkwardly, captain Anthony Shinks claimed the goal to the delight of the home crowd.

Burscough were playing arguably some of their best football so far this season. Although they were not creating chance after chance, simple things such as communication, keeping holding of the ball and working the easy pass were being done much better than in previous games.

Shinks reels away in delight after finding the net. Picture by Marc Taylor

Scarborough were always going to have a large period of dominance as one of the top teams in the league.

They did continue to create chances but became increasingly frustrated as the game went on.

Burscough nearly gifted them a goal just before half time as a long ball over the top was nodded on by Holmes towards an on rushing Ben Morrow who spilled the ball in front of Scarborough's Benny Igiehon.

Fortunately, Morrow managed to gather the ball back to kill the attack.

The second half was dominated by Scarborough as they threw everything including the kitchen sink at Burscough. A combination of die hard and well organised defending from Burscough prevented the visitors from equalising.

Despite the onslaught, Burscough survived and came out with all three points.

Burscough will host Brighouse Town on Saturday.

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